

slopes of the mountains, extends from the canyon mouths to an elevation of about 7000 feet.

This evergreen oak area is an interesting one. Shreve calls it a "western xeric evergreen forest in which oaks are dominant" (3). The term "forest" is apt to mislead those who expect a forest to consist of sizeable trees. It is only under especially favorable conditions that this association produces a forest in the popular sense. In certain areas, however, the evergreen oaks form groves in which the trees may be thirty or forty feet high. On the north-eastern slopes of the mountains the best stands of evergreen oaks occur at elevations of about 6500 feet. At higher elevations the groves become increasingly mixed with pines until, at an elevation of about 7000 feet, the pines replace the oaks. As one descends from the 6500 foot level most of the evergreen oaks decrease in size and at the 6000 foot level, and below it, they are usually stunted, bushy little trees not more than ten or twelve feet high and often much smaller. These little oaks frequently form dense thickets, but the thickets are seldom extensive and generally the evergreen oaks at the 6000 foot level are thinly scattered over the slopes which rise from the stream bottom. Along the stream bottom at this level groves are almost always present, but these consist of various deciduous trees and large junipers.

In the area just described I have observed several dozen nests of *texana*. The majority of the nests of this ant are situated between the 5500 and 6000 foot levels. The area selected is almost always a sunny, open slope, far enough away from the stream bottom to be out of the shade of the groves which occur there. As a rule the nests are placed so that they avoid even the scant shade furnished by the small evergreen oaks. Since the nests are often less than fifty yards away from areas of heavy shade, it seems clear that the nest-founding female prefers sunny places to shady ones. Above the 6000 foot level the incidence of the colonies decreases as the elevation increases. For practical purposes the upper limit of the range is reached about the 6500 foot level. I have found one nest of *texana* at an elevation of 6700 feet but the incidence of nests above