

fied the Costa Rica specimens. As far as could be ascertained there are no types of *decipiens* in American collections. Nor do there seem to be any specimens other than types which Forel might have determined. Apparently Dr. Wheeler used Forel's description as the basis for his identification and, as will be shown, this is a bad business at best. The original description of *decipiens* appeared in the ant section of the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*. It was based upon specimens coming from Teapa, a small town in the state of Tabasco, Mexico. The description is brief, but this is not the worst than can be said for it. It is sufficiently explicit to show that it does not accord in several important respects with the figure which is supposed to accompany it. These differences are so marked that there is justification for the view that the description and the figure can scarcely have been drawn from the same insect. In the figure the size of the eyes, the length of the antennal scapes and the proportions of the petiolar joints do not correspond at all to the description. Forel did not prepare the figure but he undoubtedly wrote the description, hence the latter seems more reliable as an indication of the characteristics of *decipiens*. Wheeler had evidently reached this conclusion, for his Costa Rica specimens agree much better with Forel's description than with his figure. But it should be clear that there can be no certainty as to the exact nature of Forel's *decipiens* until the types can be re-examined.

At the same time it seemed to the writer that it should be possible to clarify the status of specimens coming from the southwestern United States by collecting in northern Mexico. If the southwestern specimens were a northern race of *decipiens*, the two should intergrade at some point between Tabasco and the southern border of the United States. The survey work mentioned above gave an ideal opportunity to test this in the field. During January and February of 1952 careful vertical surveys were made in the mountains of eastern Mexico at three latitudes. The southernmost of these was in the Tamazunchale area. This survey ranged from three hundred feet to eight thousand feet. Similar studies were made in the mountains west of