6232

AMERICAN MUSEUM

NOVITATES

A New Subspecies of *Xenomyrmex stolli*
from Northeastern Mexico
(Hymenoptera, Formicidae)[1]

BY WILLIAM S. CREIGHTON[2]

When William Morton Wheeler revised the genus *Xenomyrmex* in 1931 (Rev. Ent., vol. 1, fasc. 2, pp. 129-139) he set up an exasperating problem for the student of geographical distribution. Although Wheeler's studies were based on wholly inadequate series of specimens, he described five new subspecies which he assigned to *X. stolli* Forel. Two of these (*cubanus* and *mexicanus*) were based on three workers each, and one (*rufescens*) was based on a single female. It is seldom possible to evaluate the status of a subspecies based on so few workers. Hence in most cases no conclusive estimate of Wheeler's subspecies can be made until additional material is secured. Despite its shortcomings Wheeler's 1931 study provided us with valuable new data on the distribution of *Xenomyrmex*. Wheeler showed that the southern representatives of *Xenomyrmex* range from Panama to central Mexico. He was thus able to close some of the gap which had previously separated the typical *stolli* of Guatemala from the Florida and Bahama representatives of that species. He also showed that the range of the latter cluster of forms extends to Cuba. But, despite the records published by Wheeler, there still remained a wide gap between the northern and southern representatives of *Xenomyrmex stolli*. It seems to the writer that, in the case of this rare genus, any record that diminishes this gap should be published. I have done so here, even though this involves the recognition of an additional subspecies. But in this instance comparatively abundant

13