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Notes on *Myrmecocystus lugubris* Wheeler and its Synonym, *Myrmecocystus yuma* Wheeler (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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In 1909 W. M. Wheeler published the description of *Myrmecocystus lugubris* (Jour. New York Ent. Soc., vol. 17, no. 3, p. 98) from a series of 15 specimens taken by J. C. Bradley at Otis, California. Although the above reference has repeatedly been cited, it appears that no one has since taken this insect. The reason for this became apparent to the present writer after specimens from 11 stations in California, Baja California, Arizona, and Sonora were compared with the types of *lugubris* and *yuma* in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. The total number of specimens available for this study was 336 and, while this figure is not so great as could be wished, it was sufficient to demonstrate that Wheeler had been deceived in the differences that he utilized to separate *lugubris* from *yuma*, a species that he described in 1912 (Psyche, vol. 19, no. 6, p. 176). In the opinion of the present writer *yuma* is clearly a synonym of *lugubris*, and with adequate material for examination it is easy to understand why Wheeler failed to appreciate this fact.

In the first place, it is certain that Wheeler never realized that the worker caste of *lugubris* is distinctly polymorphic, even though the size differences between the workers are slight. It is true that Wheeler noted size differences in the type series of *lugubris*, but this was due to the fact that two of the specimens were semi-repletes, with distended gasters

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