

6235

STUDIES ON THE NORTH AMERICAN
REPRESENTATIVES OF
EPHEBOMYRMEX (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

By W. S. CREIGHTON

Department of Biology, City College, New York.

Pogonomyrmex (*Ephebomyrmex*) *imberbicus* was described by W. M. Wheeler in 1902 and seven years later he added the descriptions of *pima* and *townsendi*. Since that time there has been surprisingly little additional information published on these interesting ants. What has appeared has consisted largely of locality records, but few of these have added much to our knowledge of the ranges of these insects. It is gratifying to be able to present a more complete picture of the distribution of our representatives of *Ephebomyrmex*, particularly since this clears up certain questions related to the taxonomic status of *townsendi*. It has also been possible to expand Wheeler's account of the habits of *imberbicus*, for it appears that these same habits are true of *pima* also. In past years the writer has been able to study 53 colonies of *Ephebomyrmex* at 40 stations. This study has shown that the ranges of both *imberbicus* and *pima* are much more extensive than was formerly supposed. It has also shown that *townsendi* is a synonym of *imberbicus*.

Wheeler described *townsendi* in 1909 (1) on the basis of a single specimen from Chihuahua. It is hard to avoid the suspicion that one of Wheeler's reasons for giving *townsendi* specific status is the fact that the type specimen came from Mexico. Certainly the structural features which distinguish *townsendi* from *imberbicus* are not particularly impressive. They consist mainly of the sculpture of the postpetiole and the first gastric segment. Wheeler believed that in *imberbicus* the postpetiole is