

basis alone, be unable to utilize stations on the Mexican plateau or similar areas to the north of it. I do not for one moment maintain that elevational range is the only factor that restricts *pima* to the Sonoran Desert region but it would surely seem to be one of the more important factors which go to determine this range.

I wish now to consider the habits of *imberbicus* and *pima*. It is much to be regretted that Wheeler did not content himself with the excellent account of the habits of *imberbicus* which he published in 1902 (7). All the nests on which Wheeler's original account was based were found under stones and each nest contained very few workers. Beneath the stones Wheeler discovered small chambers containing unhulled seeds and others full of brood. When transferred to artificial nests the *imberbicus* workers made no effort to utilize the seeds as long as they were supplied with insect food. But when the supply of insect food was cut off the workers hulled the seeds and not only ate them but also fed pieces of them to the larvae. Wheeler was soon aware (8) that his original nests of *imberbicus* had been exceptional in that they were built under stones, for he discovered other colonies at San Angelo, Texas, where the nests were free in the soil and surmounted by small craters. But it may be said that at the start Wheeler presented a very accurate picture of the nesting habits of *imberbicus*. It is, therefore, difficult to explain why he obscured this picture in 1910 (9) by grouping *imberbicus* and *pima* with other species of *Pogonomyrmex* with which they have little or nothing in common. In his celebrated volume *Ants* (page 283) Wheeler makes the following observation:

"1. *P. subdentatus*, *apache*, *sancti-hyacinthi* and *desertorum* and *Ephebomyrmex imberbicus*, *townsendi* and *pima*. These are small species confined to the deserts of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and northern Mexico. Their colonies are always insignificant and widely scattered, comprising only a few individuals. The nests are small, obscure craters, 10-20 cm. in diameter and a