

and the Mt. Lofty Ranges (J. G. O. Tepper) vary so as to completely close the gap in color pattern between *forceps* and *singularis*, though variation in single nest series does not seem ever to express the full variability of the species. It is worthy of note that Port Lincoln and the Lofty Ranges also have large local *rufinodis* populations, and that *rufinodis-singularis* mixed collections with similar coloration, at least in part, were apparently separated by someone after the series had reached the Museum.

It appears to me probable that *forceps* is a species with highly variable color patterning lending itself to production, by natural selection, of local color forms which mimic effectively the dominant *Myrmecia* species of the respective areas.

MYRMECIA RUFINODIS Fred. Smith

Myrmecia rufinodis Fred. Smith, 1858, Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6: 145, worker, original description. Clark, 1952, *op. cit.*, pp. 37-40, figs. 15, 16, worker, female, male, with *M. gracilis* as distinct species.

Myrmecia gracilis Emery, 1898, Rend. Accad. Sci. Bologna 3: 232, worker, NEW SYNONYMY.

Myrmecia (s. str.) *crudelis* var. *gracilis* Emery, 1911, Gen. Ins. 118: 19.

As discussed above under *M. forceps*, I found this species to be abundant at Kingscote, the type locality for *M. gracilis*. In each nest, the individuals varied considerably in color, the extremes following the color details given by Clark for *rufinodis* and *gracilis*, while intermediates were even more common. It is difficult to believe that Clark's extensive series did not contain some of these intermediates, since I have found them consistently in the majority, not only in the Kingscote series, but also in those from Port Lincoln and other littoral localities widely separated in lower South Australia. At any rate, at least some specimens from each of the nests from Kingscote compare very well with the type and other specimens of *rufinodis* in the British Museum. Emery's *gracilis* is only a common variant found in every nest seen, and always accompanying the "typical" *rufinodis*. This species was found foraging in abundance late on a warm but windy and rainy morning at Kingscote. The nests are populous and are surmounted by a conspicuous mound up to 3 feet in diameter and about one foot high; the surface of the mound is frequently "decorated" with bits of gravel or short sections of twigs or straws. The inmates are very alert and aggressive — more so than most *Myrmecia* species —