

south into the desert country of South Australia and the more arid portions of New South Wales and Victoria. In the true desert country of South Australia, such as at Leigh Creek, the nests appear to be pretty well confined to creek beds supporting red gum or coolabah trees.

The nests are entered by one or two small holes without mound or crater, and are usually situated near trees or shrubs upon which the ants do much of their foraging. Outside the entrance gorge at Wilpena Pound, in mixed red gum-*Callitris* woodland, *M. varians* is the dominant day-foraging *Myrmecia*. A similar-appearing form, "*scabra*" of the *M. harderi* complex, also occurs at the same locality, and there is no sign of intergradation between the two.

Localities for *M. varians* material studied in the Museum of Comparative Zoology: SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Lake Callabonna (A. Zeitz). Nuriootpa, one male (J. O. Tepper). Barren Falls, at the eastern edge of the Lofty Ranges near Mannum, in arid inlier; Leigh Creek, in shade of red gums in dry creek bed, foraging in thin leaf litter; Wilpena Pound (W. L. Brown). NEW SOUTH WALES: Broken Hill, type of *Promyrmecia shepherdii* Clark (F. W. Shepherd). QUEENSLAND: without further locality, type of *M. varians* from Coll. Mus. Godeffroy. Brisbane (H. Hacker).

MYRMECIA HARDERI Forel

Myrmecia harderi Forel, 1910, Rev. Suisse Zool. **18**: 8, worker.

Promyrmecia harderi Clark, 1952, Formic. Australia, Melbourne, **1**: 215-217, figs. 181, 182, worker, female.

? *Promyrmecia scabra* Clark, 1943, Mem. Nat. Mus., Melbourne, **13**: 118, pl. 14, figs. 40, 41, worker, female. NEW SYNONYMY WITH DOUBT.

? *Promyrmecia maloni* Clark, 1943, *Ibid.*, p. 121, pl. 14, fig. 43, worker. NEW SYNONYMY WITH DOUBT.

M. harderi and its close relatives listed above have longitudinally rugose postpetioles. Clark describes *M. harderi* itself as having a "yellowish red" alitrunk and the center of the petiole of the same color. A specimen before me from the type series, *ex* Gunnedah, New South Wales, has the center of the postpetiole black, with a lateral red patch on each side, and the center of the mesonotum bears a small but distinct blackish spot. Otherwise, I have a number of specimens taken from three nest series at Wilpena Pound, Flinders Ranges, South Australia, by myself, and these vary considerably in color. Some