

## A NEW BRACHYMYRMEX FROM NORTHERN UTAH (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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During the spring of 1947, a colony of *Brachymyrmex* was taken from the lower portion of Big Cottonwood Canyon near Salt Lake City, Utah. Twenty-two workers were recovered from a nest located among the roots of the common scrub oak, *Quercus gambellii* Nuttall. The location was on the south exposure of a steep canyon wall at about 5500 feet elevation. The nest was uncovered by the removal of a small stone lying against one of the vegetative stems of a rather large clump of oak. Indications are that the species is quite scarce since further attempts to find additional colonies, both in the near vicinity and in other similar locations, proved fruitless. Since the members of this genus of ants rarely appear on the surface and live in a subterranean manner where they tend aphids and coccids on roots of plants, some difficulty in locating additional colonies would be indicated.

### *Brachymyrmex depilis* subsp. *flavescens* n. subsp.

*Worker*.—Length, 1.5 mm. Shape of head and mandibles generally similar to *B. depilis*, but posterior border not as deeply indented. Clypeus broadly rounded in front. Antennal scape reaching to the posterior border of the head. Eyes small with average of 10 large ommatidia. Maxillary palpi short. Petiolar scale small with somewhat pointed border and appressed to the petiole.

Entire body opaque, the head and gaster more so than the thorax. Sculpturing medium and distinct.

Hairs and pubescence whitish in color. Pubescence fine, sparse on head and thorax but longer and more abundant on the gaster. Erect hairs sparse, few on the head, absent on thoracic dorsum; restricted to segmental margins on gaster.

Color whitish to pale yellow. Head usually darker than thorax and abdomen. Teeth and edges of mandibles tinged with brown.

Taxonomic studies indicate that the Utah form is closely allied with *B. depilis* Emery, 1893, of the eastern United States. Comparison with specimens collected by Gregg in Iowa, the nearest definite record, show morphological similarity in most major details. The Utah form can be readily distinguished from *depilis* by its lighter color, *depilis* being definitely brownish; by its smaller eyes, *depilis* having larger eyes with at least 20 ommatidia; by its coarse sculpture which renders the body opaque while *depilis* is more shining. The Utah form also has much sparser pilosity and pubescence with both hairs and pubescence being white instead of yellow.

The type series consists of 22 workers. Cotypes are deposited in the Entomological Collection at the University of Utah and in the U. S. National Museum in Washington, D. C.