

The linguistic acumen of W. M. Wheeler is well-known, and it is appropriate to mention that of George Wheeler. Throughout his career, he has been a forerunner in reminding us of our grammatical and etymological p's and q's in the Greek and Latin of myrmecological nomenclature. Continuing in this tradition, he has (unknowingly) contributed Chapter 2 of this surprise birthday volume in which, among other things, he takes aim at a few "favorite" misuses of Latin in the current nomenclature of ants. (I am unable to resist making the editorial comment that I think *Crematogaster* and *pallitarsis* though etymologically questionable, are correct in grammatical form and should be retained, but that the use of the name *Monomorium viridum* should be discontinued, substituted by the slightly different but completely correct form *M. viride*. Most of us speak some Spanish and would never say "verdo" instead of "verde" for green, now would we? As fellow enthusiasts of entometyymology (I'm not sure he'll like this coining, but I'll brave it) Dr. Wheeler and I have often discussed the subject, probably to lengths that would leave most of the readers snoring. In addition to his knowledge of classical languages, Dr. Wheeler has well-developed vocabularies in several modern languages.

There can be no mention of George Wheeler without mentioning his wife and collaborator over several decades, Jeanette Wheeler. Together, the Drs. Wheeler have given us virtually all we know about the morphology of ant larvae and have synthesized virtually everything else published by others on the subject in their own papers. It is safe to say the full value of their contribution remains to be realized, but the care and uniformity of standards with which the research has been conducted ensures that it will be great. Gaps in the knowledge remain, of course, but a very firm groundwork has been laid. Both competent researchers in their own right, there can be no doubt that the teamwork of George and Jeanette Wheeler has been a boon to the laying of this groundwork, and serves as a model of cooperation to us all. While on the subject of George Wheeler's family, it is pertinent to mention his genetic contribution to myrmecology in the person of his granddaughter, Diana E. Wheeler. Dr. Wheeler, quite appropriately, but exhibiting typical humility, takes no credit for his descendant's already notable myrmecological career.

Concluding this portion of my introduction, I wish to join the other contributors to this volume in congratulating Dr. Wheeler on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday (and this with a total of six publications in the last year!). We are pleased to present this volume honoring his professional and chronological achievements, and wish for him and his wife many more productive years.