The few species of *Myrmentoma* present in North America are easily recognized; this is one of the few subgenera of *Camponotus* that seems to be a natural or monophyletic group. Both females and workers possess a distinct semicircular median notch on the apical margin of the clypeus; the head of the major, in frontal view, is approximately as broad as long, with the lateral margins not notably convergent from occipital corner to base of mandible. Pilosity, whether as erect hairs or as very fine appressed hairs, is sparse to scattered (except on the gaster of two species). The head shape of the female is similar to that of the worker media rather than that of the worker major.

Except for *C. anthrax* Wheeler and *C. bakeri* Wheeler, all species of *Myrmentoma* nest in preformed cavities in woody tissues, whether tree limbs, stems of various shrubs, or in pithy stalks. At least some species may initiate new colonies in old cynipid galls on oaks and later move to dry, dead branches. So far as known, these ants seldom mine sound, dry wood. Both *C. anthrax* and *C . bakeri* are soil nesting species found in coastal areas of southern California.

Specimens Examined

The bulk of the material used in this study is from the collections of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM). Additional specimens, including important type material, were from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), California Academy of Sciences (CAS), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), National Museum of Natural History (USNM) , and the University of California at Davis (UCD) and at Riverside (UCR); specimens were also examined from the private collections of J. T. Longino, S. Shattuck, J. Trager, and P. S. Ward.

Systematics

Although the number of North American *Myrmentoma* species is small, their systematics has been inordinately difficult. In part, this has been due to the very variable color of some species, with the result that many color variants have been named as subspecies or varieties. Additionally, differences between species in a given complex are often subtle and may become apparent only when long series are available.

Creighton (1950) recognized eight species. Two of these were believed to be polytypic; one was divided into two, and one into three, subspecies. A total of 11 forms were recognized and separated in a key.