

NOTE

Rediscovery of the Ant *Gnamptogenys hartmani*
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Eastern Texas

Wheeler (1915. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 34: 390) described *Gnamptogenys hartmani* from a single worker collected in Huntsville, Walker Co., eastern Texas. This record seemed anomalous for a genus otherwise confined to tropical environments (Brown. 1961. Psyche 68: 69). Brown (op cit) suggested that the Texas record was either a locality error or an adventive specimen taken from bananas (it also occurs in Honduras). There are no ecological data associated with the specimen. Brown (op cit) concluded that the presence of *Gnamptogenys* in Texas remained to be convincingly demonstrated.

We have collected a second worker specimen from Texas, Brazos Co., 10 km N of Kurten, about 60 km west of the type locality. The specimen was collected in a pitfall trap in an open grassy area located 30 meters from dense post oak (*Quercus* spp.) woods on 5 Aug. 1987 (trap was in field for 24 h). Although we did extensive pitfall trapping, baiting, general collecting and berlese funnel sampling of the litter in the study area, we have not collected any additional specimens. We have not collected this species in several other similar areas in eastern Texas, using similar methods. This specimen was collected in a disturbed area (mowed and occasionally grazed by cattle), but the ant was definitely not associated with any introduced products. These data, in ad-

dition to the collection of this species in Louisiana (Echols. 1964. Ann. Entomol. Soc. Amer. 57: 137) clearly demonstrate that this species is a rarely collected member of the fauna of the United States. This species preys on the brood of the ant *Trachymyrmex septentrionalis* (McCook) (Echols op cit), which is common in the area. The ant, *Atta texana* (Buckley), is also common and may serve as a prey species.

It is gratifying that this interesting element of our native ant fauna has withstood the onslaught of the spread of the imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren), which eliminates many native ant species. The ant was collected in an area of sandy soil where the density of the imported fire ant is relatively low (115 mounds/ha). The specimen is in the collection of WPM, field number 9676.

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William P. MacKay and S. Bradleigh Vinson, *Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.*