

QUEEN, REGULAR FORM.—Head black with a patch of pale yellow on middle of face between and below bases of antennae and a smaller, fainter one above antennae, vertex yellow. Thorax with a wide pale yellow band in front and a narrower one behind separated by a black band, pleura pale yellow to base of legs. Abdomen: segment 1 pale yellow, segments 2 and 3 red, segments 4, 5 and 6 pale yellow with more or less black in the middle of the segments. Length, 20 mm.

QUEEN, MELANIC VARIETY *johanseni*, n. var.—Head black, face black, a few dingy pale yellow hairs on vertex. Thorax with a band of dingy pale yellow in front, more or less narrowed by encroachment of the black, but black hairs are not mixed in with the yellow to any great extent; a broad black band between the wings and a narrow pale yellow band on the posterior part of the thorax, this band interrupted in the middle by an extension of the black from the interalar band; pleura black, in some specimens faintly tinged with yellow. Abdomen with the first segment pale yellow interrupted in the middle with decumbent dark hair which is scanty; segments 2 and 3 red; segments 4, 5 and 6 black with more or less pale yellow hair on sides of segment 4. Hair on legs and underside black, corbicular fringes tinged with red in the type and in several specimens. Length, 18 to 20 mm.

WORKER, REGULAR FORM.—Coloured like the queen.

WORKER, MELANIC VARIETY *johanseni*.—Coloured like the queen of this variety.

Six males from Nome, Alaska, August 24-25, 1916 (F. Johansen); six males from Teller, Alaska, July 26, and five on July 29, 1913 (F. Johansen); nine males from Herschel island, Yukon Territory, end of July, 1916 (F. Johansen); six males from Bernard harbour, Northwest Territories, July 30 to August 7, 1915 (F. Johansen); one August 8, two August 10, two August 14, 1915, all from Bernard harbour (F. Johansen).

One queen of the regular form from Barter island, Alaska, July 4, 1914 (D. Jenness); one, abdomen missing, from west of Collinson point, Alaska, June 11, 1914 (E. de K. Leflingwell).

Twenty-nine queens of the melanic variety *johanseni*, all taken by Mr. F. Johansen, as follows: One from Bernard harbour, Northwest Territories, July 3 (type), two July 4, one July 6, two July 7, one July 11, one July 12, one July 19, nine July 30 to August 7, one August 8, two August 10, one August 14, all from Bernard harbour in 1915; one Chantry island (Bernard harbour), June 17, one Bernard harbour July 9, and three Bernard harbour July 11, 1916. One queen from Port Epworth, Coronation gulf, taken by Mr. J. J. O'Neill on July 15, 1915, in bad condition, appears to agree with the description of *johanseni*. One queen from Herschel island, Yukon Territory, end of July, 1916 (F. Johansen), has the yellow bands on the thorax as wide as the black band and has a narrow pale yellow band on the apices of segments 2 and 3.

The melanic variety *johanseni* approaches *melanopygus* Nyl., which, according to Franklin, can be readily separated from *sylicola* by the difference in the coloration of the head and fore part of the thorax, which is of "thoroughly mixed black and yellow hairs." However, in specimens of *melanopygus* from British Columbia the black hairs stand out conspicuously among the yellow on the fore part of the thorax.

B. sylicola is probably the same species as *lapponicus* Fab. found in Northern Europe and the mountains of Britain. The coloration of both species is the same and the spreading of the red to the fourth segment as noted in five of the Bernard harbour males occurs in varieties of *lapponicus* found in Scotland and the Pyrenees.