

show a distended abdomen, which after a time becomes swollen into a comparatively immense sphere, produced by the distension of the membrane connecting the abdominal segments, this sphere or sac being filled with a sort of honey. Another class of individuals in the community, raised from the same brood of eggs, manifest no tendency of this sort, but retain the usual normal form of abdomen. Both these classes of ants are neuters. When the sacs of the honey-producers are full they are somewhat like a transparent bubble of a yellowish color. They are unable in consequence of their immense burden to leave their nests, and are necessarily almost inactive, remaining fixed or suspended to the floors of the galleries of their nests elaborating this honey, which, it is said, they subsequently discharge into cells similar to those of the hive. It is also stated that the women and children dig them up and enjoy their honey, and that it is by no means unusual for these insects to be served at table, the head and thorax with the legs being removed, when the distended abdomens are eaten as a delicate sweetmeat. The neuter ant without the distended abdomen is the active worker in the establishment.

Our friend Krummeck informs us that they are found in considerable numbers in the mountains around Santa Fe; that the honey ants are unable to move and are fed by the active workers. He says, "I have sat by their nests and watched them working, for, at one time, six or seven hours; the workers carry leaves of different plants home, to feed, as I suppose, the others that produce the honey." Mr. Krummeck has tried to procure us specimens of the plants on which this insect feeds, but has not yet succeeded. He does not think that the honey is deposited by these honey ants in cells, as has been stated, but that they keep the fluid in their bodies, and the workers feed from them, and that when the honey in the sac of an individual is exhausted, it dies. In reference to the uses made of this honey in New Mexico, he says that the natives make a very pleasant drink of it, which is made in the proportion of three or four drachms of the honey to six ounces of water. It has no commercial value, is not brought to market, but simply made for their own use. They use this drink among themselves in the mountains in cases of fever, where medical attendance cannot be obtained. The honey is also used by them as a cure for eye diseases, especially for cataract.

Being very anxious to see this insect alive, Mr. Krummeck very kindly did his best to gratify us in this particular, having twice sent us boxes of living specimens, but the unavoidable delay and knocking about