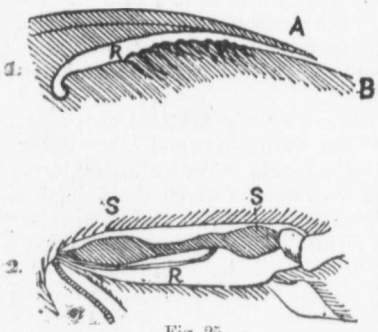

Fig. 25.
1. Abdomen of *F. flava* showing ridges (R) betwee 2nd and 3rd segments (A and B).
2. Tibia of *F. flava*, showing enlarged trachea (S S), return tube (R) (From Lubbock).

F. flava (Fabr). This species establishes its nest at the sides of roads, in fields, raising a small mound by its labours. It is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch in length, or about the same size as the two species preceding.

Myrmica, the second genus, has two "knots" in the peduncle of the abdomen, while Formica has only one. These genera can be easily distinguished by this difference, which is shown in fig. 25. M. incompleta, (Provancher). A species about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch long, bright red and black. Very common under stones, particularly in sandy localities. Perhaps this is the *dimidiata* of Say. M. tuberum, (Fabr). Light red and dull black in colour, and about $\frac{1}{6}$ of an inch long. A rare species (in the Province of Quebec), found under the bark of trees.

M. molesta, (Say). A very small ant, only $\frac{3}{20}$ of an inch long, and pale yellow. This is the ant sometimes so troublesome in houses. It hides in the crevices of the plastering, etc., in the daytime, and at night swarms in the cupboards or wherever food is left. M. Provancher says he has never met with it, except in houses, which leads him to believe that it is not indigenous, at least in the Province of Quebec.

The ants of the genus Formica do not sting, while those of Myrmica, both females and workers, are furnished with that weapon. All, however, can use their mandibles for biting purposes.

A curious practice of the *habitans* in the Province of Quebec is mentioned by M. Provancher in the *Naturaliste Canadien*. He states that in felling trees, particularly in winter, the woodcutters often find numbers of the benumbed ants in the cavities of the bark, which they eat as delicacies. "We, ourselves," he says, "have seen ants eaten with avidity. Passing through Somerset in November, 1876, we remarked several children digging among the roots of an old stump. We approached them, and found that they were picking out ants from the bark of the roots and eating them, disputing as to who should have the largest share. It was our black ant, *Formica Pennsylvanica*."

Fig. 24. The Wood Ant, *Formica rufa*.

SAW-FLIES.

(*Tenthredinidæ*.)

BY W. HAGUE HARRINGTON, OTTAWA.

The insects to be briefly described in this paper belong to the division known to entomologists as the *Hymenoptera*, which order contains all forms having four transparent, membraneous wings. To give a clear conception of the appearance of typical hymenoptera to those unfamiliar with the different orders of insects, it will only be necessary to mention the honey-bee. The habits of this familiar insect have been more frequently and more fully investigated than those of any other, and it is endeared to us all by the sweet spoils which it gathers; its remarkable industry in harvesting the dainty

NOTE.—In compiling this paper, I have drawn material from the Encyclopædia Britannica, Chambers' Encyclopædia, Nature, Science Gossip; Huber's "Fourmis Indigenes"; Provancher's "Naturaliste Canadien," and particularly from Lubbock's work. "Ants, Bees and Wasps, 1882."

An exceedingly interesting paper on Ants, by Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, is contained in the Annual Report for 1880. In it will be found much information on the subject, not contained in the present paper, including full directions for getting rid of them when they infest houses. It may be added that Mr. Bethune, owing to his onerous duties as Principal of the Trinity College School, Port Hope, has been compelled to relinquish his intention of continuing his papers, on these interesting insects, in the Reports—a result which we feel sure our readers will hear of with great regret.