

forms are western), twelve forms of the palearctic and nearctic *truncicola*, and nine other species; (3) the *Microgyna* group, consisting of seven forms of the nearctic *microgyna*, and six other species; (4) The *Exsecta* group, comprising four forms of the nearctic *exsectoides*, seven forms of the palearctic and nearctic *exsecta*, and two other species; (5) The *Fusca* group, including fourteen forms of *fusca*, the typical form of which is widely distributed throughout north and central Eurasia and boreal America, seven forms of the palearctic and nearctic *rufilabris*, nine forms of the palearctic and nearctic *cinerea*, and six other species; (6) The subgenus *Proformica*, including five forms of the nearctic *neogagates* and eight other species, some of them palearctic; (7) A new subgenus, *Neoformica*, erected to include the nearctic *pallidefulva* in its seven forms, and one other species, *F. moki* Wheeler.

Dr. Wheeler believes that North America must be the original home of the genus, because it has nearly double the number of species that Eurasia contains, "especially as it possesses representatives of the Eurasian groups of species besides two peculiar to itself (the *Microgyna* group and the subgenus *Neoformica*). Further, he regards the southern ranges of the Rocky Mountains in the United States as the centre of origin of the genus, for "nearly forty-two per cent. of the New World forms occur in Colorado and the adjacent portions of New Mexico," and the colonies of the individual forms are unusually numerous and flourishing on the mountain slopes of this territory.

Dr. Wheeler modestly makes only short references to the important discovery, in which he took a leading part, that many species, including *rufa* and *exsectoides*, form their colonies by temporary social parasitism in small colonies of *F. fusca* or in a few cases, another species. "The recently fecundated *rufa* female finds a home in a *F. fusca* colony and permits these ants to bring up her young. The *fusca* queen is either destroyed by the intrusive *rufa* or by her own offspring, so that when the *fusca* workers eventually die off a pure colony of *rufa* remains."

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