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A New Genus of Ants in Britain

WHILE making some observations on the ants that occur in south-east Dorset (as a preliminary to a detailed survey of the ant fauna of South Haven Peninsula), I came across workers of a small reddish species which on closer examination proved to be quite distinct from any known British species. The most obvious characters that differentiate this from other Myrmicines are the shape of the mandibles and the very square head, of which the hind margin is markedly emarginate. The mandibles, instead of broadening to a toothed distal end, narrow to a single point like a pair of curved tusks which when closed just cross at the tip. When the specimens were shown to Mr. O. W. Richards, he immediately referred them to the Continental genus *Strongylognathus*, Mayr, which is well known to be an inquiline or slave-maker associating with *Tetramorium*. A full description of the species will be published elsewhere.

Workers were taken from two loci more than a mile apart, and in both cases were associated with *Tetramorium caespitum*, Linn. On May 5, 1935, when a nest of *Tetramorium* on a sandy heather-covered bank was accidentally disturbed, several were seen to be moving about among the *Tetramorium*. On June 15, 1935, I was watching *Tetramorium* moving about on the surface of a slight sandy slope on which was an open turf of low plants. Several *Strongylognathus* were seen moving on the surface among the *Tetramorium*, not far from the entrance to the latter's nest. One or two of the former were each surrounded by several *Tetramorium* which appeared to be pulling them about. The object of this action was not apparent.

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