

occurs in England, and has several times been taken by myself, and sent to me for determination by correspondents.

(b) The application of the name *capreæ* by different authors to different species has caused terrible confusion. Konow formerly applied it to what he now calls *trisignatus*, but has now come to the conclusion that the original *capreæ*, L., was the *Pteronus* described under that name in my last paper.

(To be continued).

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*FORMICOXENUS NITIDULUS*, NYL., ♂, AS BRITISH.

BY RICHARD S. BAGNALL, F.E.S.

Until recently, when the writer had the good fortune of finding this interesting species in some numbers in the hills of *Formica rufa*, L., at Corbridge-on-Tyne, Northumberland (p. 140), *Formicoxenus nitidulus*, Nyl., was regarded as a very rare British ant, and only ♀ and ♂ had been taken in Britain. In early June Mr. Donisthorpe and the writer spent a whole day with the Corbridge wood-ants, and, again finding *Formicoxenus* in some profusion, we each took a large series in the hopes of finding the male; but, excepting a few apterous queens, they all proved to be workers.

Yesterday, despite the stormy weather, several hours were spent in once more investigating the *rufa* hills at Corbridge, this time (without success, we may add) in search of the winged ♀. In fact, our little friend was decidedly rare, and three hours' hard work only produced fifteen examples, namely, an apterous queen, four workers, of which three were badly mutilated, and no less than *ten* males. It is therefore with real pleasure we are thus able at last to record the male sex as having occurred in Britain. The ♂ of this ant is apterous, and very strongly resembles the ♀, but comparatively speaking is of slighter build, and, apart from other minute sexual differences, is easily distinguished by its twelve-jointed antennæ, those of the ♀ being eleven-jointed; and also by the fact that in the ♂ the ocelli are developed, whereas in the ♀ they are rarely so, and then only partially.

Mr. Saunders informs me that *Formicoxenus nitidulus* is the same species as Farren White and the older British authors knew as *Stenamma westwoodi*; the latter, however, was described from a ♂ which proves to be the ♂ of what used to be called *Myrmica lippula*, so that the old *Myrmica lippula* is now *Stenamma westwoodi*, and the *Stenamma westwoodi* of olden times we now know as *Formicoxenus nitidulus*.

The Groves, Winlaton-on-Tyne :

August 13th, 1906.

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