



have previously been reported in the Forth Area.—LEONORA JEFFREY RINTOUL and EVELYN V. BAXTER, Largo.

**Monomorium pharaonis, L., in Kincardineshire.**—In April 1909, numerous specimens of this species of Ant were given to the writer by Mr Campbell, Auchinblae, near Fordoun. They had become a regular plague in his business premises, being specially destructive to sugar. The identification is due to Mr Donisthorpe, who tells me that little, unfortunately, can be done to eradicate this pest.—JAMES WATERSTON, Ollaberry, Shetland.

**Mallophaga from the Ptarmigan.**—Through the kindness of Dr Harvie-Brown I had an opportunity in the end of October of examining two Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*) from Inchnadamph, Sutherlandshire, and from them obtained a fair number of Mallophaga belonging to two species—a *Nirmus* (♂ ♀) and a *Goniodes* (♂ ♀). So far as I am aware, no Mallophagan parasite has hitherto been recorded from the Ptarmigan in this country. In his *Anoplurorum Britanniae* (1842), Denny says of *Nirmus cameratus*, N., “Common upon the Red Grouse and Black Grouse, and I suspect also upon the Ptarmigan”; and of *Goniodes tetraonis*, D., “Common upon both the Black and Red Grouse; upon the Willow or Hazel Grouse (*Tetrao saliceti*) I find a similar but distinct species, rather broader in the abdomen, and of much darker colour. What infests the Ptarmigan I have never been able to ascertain.” Grube, in Middendorf’s *Siberian Reise* (1851), records *Nirmus cameratus* from *Lagopus albus* (= *saliceti*) and *L. alpinus* at Boganida, and *Goniodes tetraonis* from *L. albus* at Boganida and *L. alpinus* at the Taimyrsee. *L. alpinus* (Nils.) is a synonym of *L. mutus* (Montin), but the Ptarmigan met with by Middendorf in these northern districts of Siberia are more likely to have been *L. rupestris* (the Rock-Ptarmigan) than true *L. mutus*. Compared with specimens of *Nirmus cameratus* from Red Grouse—and also from the Black Grouse—my *Nirmi* from the Ptarmigan differ so far as I see only in being darker and greyer, with the marginal lines almost black. As the difference, however, is probably constant, I venture to designate them *N. cameratus*, Nitzsch, var. *nigrescens*. The *Goniodes* agree so well with *G. tetraonis*, Denny, from Red and Black Grouse, that I unhesitatingly identify them with that species. In them also the markings are on the dark side, but not more so than in some examples from the other birds. Since writing the above I have found similar specimens on an Inverness-shire Ptarmigan kindly submitted to me by Mr T. Speedy.—WILLIAM EVANS.