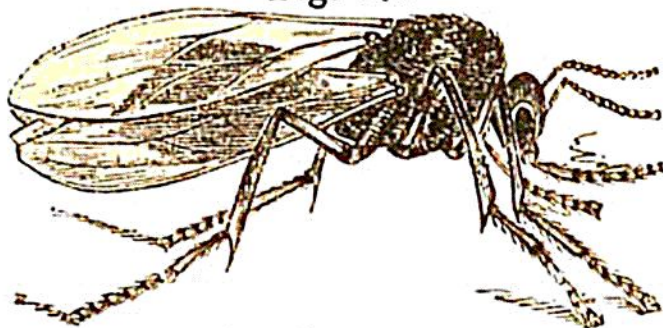


of the western provinces of India—for some interesting observations upon three species of ants, particularly one, which, from making its nests on the branches of trees, is called the *Tree-ant*, singularly exemplifying the extraordinary instincts of these laborious and provident insects, and which I have his permission to insert in this work.

Fig. 97.



Myrmica Kirbii.

tenths of an inch in length; head of the neuter disproportionately large; the thorax is armed posteriorly with two sharp spines. When moving, the insect turns the abdomen

Fig. 98.



Myrmica Kirbii (neuter).

moongeeera, on the boughs of trees of different kinds; and their construction is singular, both for the material and the architecture, and is indicative of admirable foresight and contrivance: in shape they vary from globular to oblong,

Fig. 99.

Myrmica Kirbii,
attitude when in
motion.

the longest diameter being about ten inches, and the shortest eight. The nests consist of a multitude of thin leaves of *cow-dung*, imbricated like tiles upon a house, the upper leaf formed of one unbroken sheet, covering

Fig. 97.

The *Tree-ant** inhabits the Western Ghauts, in the collectorate of Poona, in the Deccan, at an elevation of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet from the level of the sea. It is of a ferruginous colour, two-thirds of an inch in length; head of the neuter disproportionately large; the thorax is armed posteriorly with two sharp spines. When moving, the insect turns the abdomen back over the thorax, and the knotty pedicle lies in a groove between the spines. The male is without the spines.

These ants are remarkable for forming their nests (*fig. 100*), called by the Marattas