

smallest specimens. Thus, presence of a metanotal suture is probably size related and not an adequate diagnostic character for distinguishing *Thaumatomyrmex* species.

All *Thaumatomyrmex* specimens have mandibles composed of three long prongs, but some specimens also possess a small tooth on the base of the mandible just above the mandibular articulation. This is the single character I have been able to discover with discrete character states. It is apparent from literature accounts and the new material I have examined that the known *Thaumatomyrmex* specimens can be unambiguously partitioned with respect to presence or absence of a basal mandibular tooth.

Species Accounts

Thaumatomyrmex ferox Mann

Thaumatomyrmex ferox Mann, 1922:3-4. Syntype workers, San Juan Pueblo, Honduras.

Thaumatomyrmex paludis Weber, 1942:68-70. Holotype worker, small island near Isla Tortola, Orinoco Delta, Venezuela. Syn. nov.

Thaumatomyrmex sp.; Kempf, 1975:120-121.

Workers are recognized solely by the lack of a basal mandibular tooth. Collections of *T. ferox* thus include the type specimens from Honduras, a single specimen from Belize (described by Kempf, 1975), all the material from Costa Rica, two *paludis* collections from Venezuela and one from near Manaus, Brazil (see Kempf, 1975).

The primary diagnostic characters for *T. paludis* were relatively short mandibles, lack of a metanotal suture, and small size. As described above, none of these can be used to differentiate *Thaumatomyrmex* species.

Thaumatomyrmex atrox Weber

Thaumatomyrmex atrox Weber, 1939:98-99. Holotype worker, junction Mazaruni and Cuyuni Rivers, Guyana; paratype worker, foothills of Tunapuna, Trinidad.

Thaumatomyrmex manni Weber, 1939:99. Holotype worker, Huachi, Beni, Bolivia. Syn. nov.

Thaumatomyrmex zeteki M. R. Smith, 1944:98-99. Holotype and paratype worker, Barro Colorado Island, Panama. Syn. nov.

Workers are recognized solely by the presence of a basal mandibular tooth. Collections of *T. atrox* include the type collections from Guyana and Trinidad, type and subsequent collections of *T. zeteki* from