

**NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS FOR THE ANT GENUS  
*CARDIOCONDYLA* IN THE NEW WORLD  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)**

WILLIAM P. MACKAY

Laboratory for Environmental Biology, The University of Texas,  
El Paso, Texas 79968

*Abstract.*—Five species of the genus *Cardiocondyla* occur in the New World. All of the species have been recorded from the United States, the genus was not recorded from South America until 1937. I list a number of new localities for most of the species, including numerous localities in Latin America. Specifically, *C. emeryi* Forel is recorded for the first time from Colombia, Costa Rica and Venezuela; *C. nuda* from Alabama and Colombia, *C. wroughtoni* from Mexico, Panama and Colombia. Several additional localities are also provided for these and other species in this genus. A key is provided for the identification of workers in the New World.

*Key Words.*—Insecta, introductions, cosmopolitan, Latin America, predation, nesting site, invasions, introduced species

---

*Cardiocondyla* is an Old World genus containing about 30 (Snelling 1974) or 40 (Bolton 1982) species. The females and workers are morphologically uniform, the males are so different they have been described in three separate genera (Kugler, 1983). Most species found in the New World are cosmopolitan and all of the species in the New World (with the possible exceptions of *C. ectopia* Snelling and *C. venustula* Wheeler) have been introduced (Creighton 1950, Bolton 1982, Heinze et al. 1993). Even though these ants have been introduced, and could be expected to be pests, they are rarely collected. Little is known of their biology, but they are apparently predators (Creighton & Snelling 1974, Lupo & Gerling 1984), feed on dead insects (Wilson 1959) feed on nectar of *Euphorbia* (Creighton & Snelling 1974) or tend Homoptera (Smith 1944). Most species nest in sandy soil and the nest entrances are very cryptic (Creighton & Snelling 1974); *C. wroughtoni* (Forel) nests in galls, figs and other plant tissue (Lupo & Galil 1984).

I have accumulated significant new distributional records for *Cardiocondyla* for about 25 years, and felt that a listing of these localities would be useful, together with an updated key. Only New World records are listed. The previous distributions are taken from Smith (1944), Creighton (1950), Creighton & Snelling (1974), Kempf (1972), Smith (1979), Bolton (1982), Dowell & Gill (1989), and Maes & MacKay (1993). All of the specimens are in the Laboratory of Environmental Biology of the University of Texas, El Paso.

**LIST OF NEW WORLD DISTRIBUTIONS OF THE SPECIES  
*Cardiocondyla ectopia* Snelling**

California (Orange and Los Angeles counties), Arizona. This species may be a synonym of *C. nuda* var. *mauritanica* (Kugler 1983).

*New Records.*—USA. CALIFORNIA. LOS ANGELES Co.: Chino, 23 Sep 1972, W. MacKay, #72-100; ORANGE Co.: Cypress, 22 Sep 1972, W. MacKay, #72-37.