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The ant genus *Thaumatomyrmex* in Cuba (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) with description of two new species

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Two species of *Thaumatomyrmex*, *T. nageli* **sp. n.** and *T. mandibularis* **sp. n.** are described from Cuba. *T. nageli* resembles the Cuban endemic *cochlearis* Creighton but differs from it by the integument more sculptured, and by the pilosity shorter and sparser. *T. mandibularis* resembles *bariay* Fontenla but differs from it by its larger size, broader head and longer mandibles. With the descriptions of these two new species, the genus *Thaumatomyrmex* appears to comprise 8–11 species (according to the classification adopted) scattered between British Honduras and SE Brazil, four of which are endemic to Cuba. If the different species density between Cuba and the South American mainland would be confirmed, the Cuban diversity of *Thaumatomyrmex* should be interpreted as a case of explosive insular speciation.

Keywords: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Thaumatomyrmex*, new species, Cuba.

INTRODUCTION

The ant genus *Thaumatomyrmex* is restricted to the Neotropics with a handful of rare and poorly known species ranging from British Honduras to SE Brazil. Kempf (1975) recognises the following eight species within the genus: *atrox* Weber, 1939, *cochlearis* Creighton, 1928, *contumax* Kempf, 1975, *ferox* Mann, 1922, *manni* Weber, 1939, *mutilatus* Mayr, 1887, *paludis* Weber, 1942, and *zeteki* Smith, 1944, all based exclusively on worker characters. In the same paper Kempf (l. c.) grouped these eight *Thaumatomyrmex* species in three species groups: *mutilatus* group from extra Amazonian Brazil and including *contumax* and *mutilatus*; *cochlearis* group, endemic to Cuba and including *cochlearis* only; *ferox* group from the Amazon basin, northern South America and Central America, including *atrox*, *ferox*, *manni*, *paludis* and *zeteki*.

The male of *T. mutilatus* is the sole reproductive caste described to date (Kempf 1954). Gynes are apparently very rare and only one Panamanian gyne probably belonging to *T. zeteki* is mentioned in the literature but remains still undescribed (Kempf 1975).

Longino (1988), on the basis of variability of some biometric traits (head length vs. head width and head width vs. mandible length), considered that the allometric characters used by Kempf (1975) to differentiate the members of the *ferox* group were insufficient to support species-level separations. Longino (l. c.) went even further by adding that the genus *Thaumatomyrmex* could comprise only a single geographically variable species with a continuous distribution, a hypothesis sustained by the fact that all described species appeared to be allopatric. Following this