

**On the taxonomy of *Meranoplus puryi* FOREL, 1902 and  
*Meranoplus puryi curvispina* FOREL, 1910  
(Insecta: Hymenoptera: Formicidae)**

S. Schödl\*

**Abstract**

Study of type material of *Meranoplus puryi* FOREL, 1902 and *M. puryi curvispina* FOREL, 1910 has revealed that the two taxa are distinct species, separable by external traits and morphometric measures. A lectotype is designated for each species. Redescriptions, description of gynes, and distributional data are presented.

**Key words:** Formicidae, Myrmicinae, *Meranoplus*, *M. puryi curvispina*, *M. puryi*, lectotype designation, redescription, description of gynes.

**Zusammenfassung**

Untersuchungen der Typen von *Meranoplus puryi* FOREL, 1902 und *M. puryi curvispina* FOREL, 1910 haben gezeigt, dass beide Taxa eigenständige Arten darstellen, die sowohl anhand morphologischer Merkmale, als auch aufgrund morphometrischer Messungen getrennt werden können. Für beide Arten werden Lectotypen festgelegt. Wiederbeschreibungen, eine Beschreibung der Gynen sowie Verbreitungsdaten werden präsentiert.

**Introduction**

In his study on Australian *Meranoplus* F. SMITH, TAYLOR (1990: 39) synonymized *Meranoplus puryi curvispina* with *M. puryi* on the basis of type material. In the course of a forthcoming revision of the genus *Meranoplus* in Australia, numerous types from various collections have been studied. Re-examination of all available syntypes of both taxa, housed in ANIC, MHNG and NHMB, and further non-type material has shown that the synonymization cannot be maintained. Moreover, the two forms represent distinct, clearly separable species.

**Material and Methods**

Specimens were studied with an Olympus SZH10 Research Stereo binocular microscope. Measurements were taken with an ocular grid from dry and point-mounted specimens at magnifications from 80x - 140x. Illustrations were prepared with camera lucida equipment, attached to the binocular.

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\* Dr. Stefan Schödl, Natural History Museum, International Research Institute of Entomology, Burgring 7, A-1014 Vienna, Austria – stefan.schoedl@nhm-wien.ac.at.