

Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia

Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo

Volume 47(2):15-26, 2007

www.scielo.br/paz

ISSN impresso: 0031-1047

ISSN on-line: 1807-0205

***BASICEROS SCAMBOGNATHUS* (BROWN, 1949) N. COMB., WITH THE FIRST WORKER AND MALE DESCRIPTIONS, AND A REVISED GENERIC DIAGNOSIS (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE: MYRMICINAE)**

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ABSTRACT

We propose the synonymy of the monotypic neotropical myrmicine (Basicerotini) ant genus Creightonidris Brown with Basiceros Schulz, and describe for the first time the worker and male of B. scambognathus n. comb., known thus far only by alate gynes. We also provide information on the distribution of this species, a revised diagnosis for Basiceros, and a revised key to workers and gynes of this genus. The few known data on the biology of B. scambognathus are summarized.

KEYWORDS: ants, Basicerotini, *Creightonidris*, *Basiceros*, key, synonymy, worker and male description.

INTRODUCTION

The myrmicine ant tribe Basicerotini Brown includes seven nominal genera: *Basiceros*, *Creightonidris*, *Eurbopalothrix*, *Octostruma*, *Protalaridris*, *Rhopalothrix*, and *Talaridris* (Bolton, 2003). Brown (1949) recognized these genera as distinct from Dacetini; although these ants are similar in appearance due to convergence in characters held in common by members of both tribes (Brown & Kempf, 1960). Basicerotini has a strongly disjunct distribution, occurring in the New World (primarily Neotropical, with one species in Florida, USA) and in the Melanesian region (Australia, New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon

Islands Borneo, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Palau, Brunei, and the Philippines). Brown & Kempf (1960) also studied basicerotine material from Botel Tobago Island just off southern Formosa.

All basicerotine species come from predominantly mesic habitats, particularly from the leaf-litter and superficial soil layers. Colonies are monogynous and relatively small, nesting in natural cavities, fallen twigs, empty dry fruits or rotten wood. Workers forage alone, mostly preying upon a wide range of soft bodied arthropods and their larvae (Hölldobler & Wilson, 1990). According to Brown (1974), "the adults move very slowly, and they feign death for long periods when disturbed, rivaling the attine *Apterostig-*

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