

to obtain workers or males and to record its behavior. Unfortunately, the specimen died some weeks after confinement and the only piece of information we were able to gather is that the captive gyne accepted termite workers as food in the laboratory. Interestingly, this individual was found dead within the fungus garden of an *Atta sexdens* artificial nest in the same lab, so we can not rule out the possibility that *B. scambognathus* lives inside *Atta* nests (or another fungus grower ant), which could explain the difficulty to find this species in nature, and in part its status of rarity.

The second worker collected up to now was recovered alive along with other ants, several different terrestrial arthropods, and soil particles from a leaf litter sample. Once in a plastic recipient, the worker feigned death upon disturbance, in typical *Basiceros* style, remaining so for several minutes, and reassuming movement quite slowly. Also as expected for a basicerotine ant, the body of the worker was tightly covered by a layer of dried soil (Hölldobler & Wilson, 1986). From the same sample we recovered also several workers of an unidentified *Apterostigma* and many *Blepharidatta conops* workers.

*Examined material:* no locality, no date (no collector), [Gift from B. Bolton (BMNH) #59 74] (1 Gyne) (ANIC). BRASIL: Amapá: Amapari, 8-10.xi.1993 (W. França), [Tucano-2] (1 Male) (INPA); (F.F. Ramos) (1 Male) (INPA); (N. Bittencourt) (1 Male) (INPA); 9-10.xi.1993 (A. Pena) (1 Male) (INPA); 10-14.xi.1993 (F.F. Ramos) (1 Male) (INPA). Amazonas: Estirão do Equador, Rio Javari, ix.1979 (Alvarenga) (1 Gyne, 1 Male) (MZSP); N of Manaus, Reserva Ducke, 22-26.xi.1966 (no collector), [Malaise trap] (3 Males) (MZSP); 14.viii.1981 (C.B. Fairchild & J.A. Rafael), [Malaise] (1 Male) (INPA); 28.ix.1981 (J.A. Rafael), [Malaise] (1 Male) (INPA). Bahia: Maracás, Fazenda Maria Inácia, 24-29.xi.1990 (Brandão; Diniz & Oliveira) (1 Male) (MZSP). Goiás: Serra da Mesa, Colinas do Sul (14°01'S 48°12'W), 2-15.xii.1995 (Silvestre; Dietz & Campaner), [Cerrado] (1 Male) (MZSP); Jataí, xii.1972 (F.M. Oliveira), [#8911] (1 Gyne) (MZSP). Maranhão: Estreito, Fazenda Itaueras (6°31'54"S 47°22'16"W), 12-22.vi.2006 (R.R. Silva & R.M. Feitosa) (1 Worker) (MZSP). Mato Grosso: Sinop (12°31'S 55°37'W), x.1974 (M. Alvarenga), [#12306] (1 Gyne) (MZSP); [#12307] (6 Males) (MZSP); (Alvarenga & Roppa), [#12517] (1 Male) (MZSP); [#12551] (1 Gyne) (MZSP); [#12552] (4 Males) (MZSP); Vila Vera, x.1973 (M. Alvarenga), [#10253] (6 Males) (MZSP). Pará: Santarém Novo, Fazenda Jaburu, 7-9.i.1993 (J. Dias) (1 Male) (INPA); Igarapé-Açu, i.1949 (Gonçalves) (1 Gyne) (MCZC). Rondônia: 62 km

S of Ariquemes, Fazenda Rancho Grande (10°32'S 62°48'W), 12-22.xi.1991 (E.M. Fisher) (3 Males) (PWRD). Roraima: Ilha de Maracá, Rio Uraricoera, 18-28.viii.1987 (J.A. Rafael *et al.*) (1 Male) (INPA).

## Resumo

*No presente trabalho, propomos a sinonímia do gênero monotípico neotropical de formigas mirmicíneas (Basicerotini) Creightonidris Brown sob Basiceros Schulz e descrevemos pela primeira vez a operária e o macho de Basiceros scambognathus comb. n., conhecida até agora somente por rainhas aladas. Apresentamos dados sobre a distribuição dessa espécie, uma nova diagnose para Basiceros e uma chave atualizada para identificação de operárias e genes do gênero. Os poucos dados conhecidos sobre a biologia de B. scambognathus são sumarizados.*

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** formigas, Basicerotini, *Creightonidris*, *Basiceros*, chave, sinônímia, descrição de operária e macho.

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