

is not comprehensive enough. Moreover, they referred to keys and illustrations from the literature without referring to them especially that of Mohammed et al. (2001). In addition, the introduction was not relevant to the subject of the paper and also all the diagnostic characters of the recorded species were general and related to the genera! Moreover, many references were wrong and years of publication not correct. In brief, this work is not dependable and has to be discussed here.

The most important taxonomic works carried out on the Egyptian Formicidae were done by Finzi, Wheeler and Mann, Donisthorpe, Santschi and Alfieri.

Wheeler and Mann (1916) studied ant species of the Phillips expedition to Palestine during 1914 and described 5 new taxa. In addition, they recorded 28 species from Egypt. Many entomological trips were conducted to different Egyptian governorates to survey insect fauna. The ant fauna included 13 species, 8 subspecies and 2 varieties from several localities in Egypt (Alfieri, 1931). In 1936, Finzi identified the Formicidae of Della Torre expedition to Egyptian Nile and Sinai peninsula; recording 27 species, 10 subspecies and 43 varieties with notes on their distribution in the world. Moreover, the author discovered 2 subspecies and 3 varieties. These were *Cardiocondyla emeryi* subsp. *schatzmayri* from Helwan, Barrage, Kirdassa, Atar el-Nabi; *Solenopsis orbula* subsp. *kochi* from Salloum, Helwan, Ikingi Mariout, Cairo; *Cardiocondyla elegans* var. *torre-tassoii* from Wadi Hoff, El-Tor, Wadi Garawi; *Acantholepis frauenfeldi* var. *aegyptiaca* from Wadi Hoff; and *Acantholepis frauenfeldi* var. *opaciventris* from Sinai.

Siwa oasis was surveyed entomologically by the Armstrong college expedition and yielded 27 ant species. Descriptions of two new taxa were also given, *Tetramorium minutum* and *Monomorium atomus cooperi* (Donisthorpe, 1942). In (1945) the same author gave a list of the important terms used in myrmicology. In another study of Siwa oasis ants, Donisthorpe (1947) listed 14 taxa and described a new species *Solenopsis cooperi*. Many more additional studies were carried out on the Egyptian ant fauna but the bulk of them consisted largely of isolated descriptions of new taxa. Seldom pertinent illustrations were provided and sometimes very short descriptions. Finally, the authors believe that there is no doubt that many more native species remain to be added to the Egyptian ant fauna as the territory becomes more carefully explored.

#### **Measurements and indices (according to Bolton, 1982)**

TL: The total outstretched length of the ant from the mandibular apex to the gastral apex.

EL: Eye length, the maximum diameter of the eye.