

Wm. L. Brown
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17 NOTES ON CHINESE ANTS: I. *CREMATOGASTER* LUND

By William L. Brown, Jr.

The Biological Laboratories, Harvard University

***Crematogaster* (*Orthocrema*) *sordidula* subsp. *osakensis* Forel**

- C. sordidula* var. *osakensis* Forel, 1900, Bull. Soc. Ent. Suisse, **10**: 269, ♂.
C. sordidula var. *japonica* Forel, 1912, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., **56**: 339, ♀.
C. sordidula osakensis var. *japonica* Emery, 1912, Deutsch. Ent. Zeitschr., p. 672, ♀.
(Wheeler, 1928, Boll. Lab. Zool. Portici, **21**: 111-112, ♀♀♂.)

In the reference listed in parentheses above, Wheeler discusses the variation of *osakensis* and comes to the conclusion that size difference is the only character which reliably distinguishes *japonica*. I do not know whether any Japanese worker has studied these forms, but I feel sure that the synonymy of *japonica* with *osakensis* is long overdue. Forel's measurement of ants must have been very crude, for I have often found them differing very widely from my own and other authors' careful measurements of types of other Forelian species of ants. In any case, Chinese series of *osakensis* show a size range of from 2.3 to 3.1 mm., variability in the darkness of the gaster, and considerable variation in the convexity of the eyes, often within the same nest. The relationship of *osakensis* to other forms of *Orthocrema* from North America and Palearctic Eurasia needs study.

I have taken *osakensis* in the following localities in West China:

Szechuan Province: Mou Man Shan, a series of bluffs one mile north of the airfield at Hsin Ching. Mountains just back of Kuan Hsien City, 1200 m. Mount Ormei, moist lauraceous forest, 3-4000 feet.

Shensi Province: Slope of main gorge, two miles north of Pao Ch'eng.