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IS ECITON MEXICANUM F. SMITH REALLY
ECITON PILOSUS F. SMITH?*

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In 1858 F. Smith described a species of ant, *Eciton* (*A.*) *pilosus*, from the worker phase. From that date until the present time neither the queen nor the male have been discovered. A year later Smith described another *Eciton* from the male phase. This ant, *Eciton* (*A.*) *mexicanum*, is still known from only the male phase although it has been over seventy years since Smith first described the species. Since I have some data bearing on the identity of the two species, I believe it worth while to record it here. From the information at hand I am led to believe that the ant which F. Smith described as *E. mexicanum* is not a valid species, but is very probably the male of *Eciton pilosus*. If my assumption should prove correct, then the name *E. mexicanum* must be relegated to synonymy. The reasons which have led me to this hypothesis are given below.

During the summer of 1930 I received for determination a number of ants from Mr. J. P. Kislanko, of Wiggins, Mississippi. Among the lot was a number of specimens of male ants belonging to a species of *Eciton*. Mr. Kislanko stated that the specimens were collected at a light trap at Wiggins on the night of June 27. After carefully examining the ants I found that they agreed splendidly with Wheeler's remarks and figure of *Eciton mexicanum* F. Smith as given in his "Ants of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona." (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. 24, p. 414, f. 11, pl. 26 (1908).)

Previous to the date on which the males of *E. mexicanum* were collected at Wiggins, the genus *Eciton* (*Acamatus*) was represented in Mississippi by only four species, namely: *carolinensis*, *opacithorax*, *pilosus*, and *schmitti*, although rather general collecting for ants had been done over a period of ten years or more. Of these four species, males are known only for *opacithorax* and

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