

WILLIAM L. BROWN

JUNE, 1954]

SMITH & WING: ANT

105

REDESCRIPTION OF DISCOTHYREA TESTACEA ROGER,
A LITTLE-KNOWN NORTH AMERICAN ANT,
WITH NOTES ON THE GENUS
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDÆ)

BY MARION R. SMITH¹ AND MERLE W. WING²

The primary purpose of this paper is to redescribe and figure *Discothyrea testacea* Roger, an almost unknown North American ant, and to furnish such historical and biological facts concerning it as may be of interest. The genus *Discothyrea* is also discussed and all the known species listed.

In 1863 (Berlin. Ent. Ztschr. 7: 176-177) Roger described a new genus and species of ponerine ant, *Discothyrea testacea*, on the basis of a worker and dealated female. His generic description was unusually thorough, his specific description extremely brief. Through some unfortunate oversight he failed to designate a specific type locality; however, this was remedied later in 1863 in his "Verzeichniss der Formiciden — Gattungen und Arten," where he gave "Nord Amerika" as the general type locality without further remark.

From 1863 until 1948 no one in this country succeeded in finding additional individuals, and the presence of *testacea* in North America was becoming a matter of considerable doubt. Such well-known works as Wheeler's, 1910 and 1926 editions of "Ants"; Smith's, 1947, "A Generic and Subgeneric Synopsis of the United States Ants, Based on the Workers"; and Creighton's, 1950, "Ants of North America", made no mention of the genus or species. So far as we are aware, no one in North America has ever seen Roger's types. A number of workers, especially beginners, did not know that *Discothyrea* had ever been recorded for North America, although the species *testacea* is listed for North America by Emery (1911, in Wytzman's Genera Insectorum, fascicule 118, p. 52). Emery

¹U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Entomology Research Branch, Washington, D. C.

²Raleigh, N. C.