

THE FEMALE OF *EUCRYPTOCERUS PLACIDUS* (F. Smith)  
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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When Kempf (1951) revised the genus *Eucryptocerus*, he had available to him fewer than 20 specimens (all workers) representing the four species recognized then. A fifth species, *E. serraticeps* (F. Smith), described from a single female, was included provisionally; this species was unknown to Kempf, except by the very inadequate original description. At this time, the sexual forms of *Eucryptocerus* were unknown.

A few years later Kempf (1959), after examining the male type of *Cephalotes placidus* (F. Smith), removed this species to the genus *Eucryptocerus* and placed *E. opacus* (F. Smith) in synonymy with it. Kempf redescribed the male specimen and provided the first adequate concept of what the sexual forms are like.

While examining a series of ants from Amazonian Peru, I discovered a series of 40 workers of *E. placidus*; associated with the workers was a single alate female cephalotine which bore a strong superficial resemblance to the females of the related genus *Cephalotes*. There can be little doubt that this is the previously undescribed female of *placidus*, and in order to assist others working with Neotropical ants, it seems advisable to describe it at this time.

This specimen has been checked against Smith's description of *E. serraticeps*, and there can be little doubt that the two species are distinct from one another. Smith described his species as having the abdomen "... very smooth and shining, with scattered delicate punctures; the apical segments roughened, with their margins smooth and shining." In the female of *E. placidus* the abdomen is distinctly marked with fine, transverse striae, imparting a rather dull appearance; the abdominal punctures are more obscure than fine, and are mostly separated by only two or three times a puncture diameter. The wings differ in color from Smith's description since the entire wing, except the submarginal cell, is infuscated with brownish. The wing agrees closely with the description and figures of Kempf (1959), except that the marginal cell is somewhat longer.

The following description should prove to be of assistance in recognizing additional female specimens of this species: