

Jacinto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel and Sierra Nevada ranges flanking desert areas.

The species previously considered to be *M. semirufus* by Wheeler and subsequent authors must now be known as *M. kennedyi* Cole, 1936. In 1950 Creighton listed *M. melliger* var. *testacea* Emery as a synonym of *M. semirufus*. I have examined cotypes of that form and find that it has nothing in common with the true *M. semirufus*, nor is it related to *M. kennedyi*. This species must be transferred to the *mexicanus* group as a valid species and a senior synonym of *M. mojave* Wheeler, 1908, over which it has priority (NEW SYNONYM).

***Myrmecocystus placodops* Forel**

Myrmecocystus melliger var. *placodops* Forel, 1908. Bulletin Société Vaudois des Sciences Naturelles, ser. 5, 44:70. ♀.

Myrmecocystus melliger, Wheeler, 1908. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 24:348, fig. 2, ♀ ♀; Wheeler, 1912. Psyche, 19:174-175; Creighton, 1950. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 104:442, 444-445. (Misidentification)

Myrmecocystus melliger subsp. *orbiceps* Wheeler, 1908. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 24:349, fig. 3. ♀ ♀; Wheeler, 1912. Psyche, 19:173; Creighton, 1950. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 104: 442, 445. NEW SYNONYM.

Forel's name was published in March, 1908, and Wheeler's appeared on May 9 of the same year. Accordingly, it is necessary to use the name *M. placodops* for this species. I have examined the unique type, now in the Forel Collection at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, and compared it with cotypes of *M. melliger orbiceps*. There is no doubt that these are conspecific. The type of *M. placodops* is, unhappily, from an unknown locality in Mexico. It is unfortunate that the type locality is thus Mexico, since so little of the range of this species lies in that country. In the United States, *M. placodops* is found from central Texas to southern California. The Mexican distribution of this species appears to be limited to areas immediately adjacent to the International Border.

That portion of the key to *Myrmecocystus* species by Creighton (1950) involving the *M. melliger* complex is inadequate to separate the various forms involved. I have, therefore, prepared the following key to separate the worker and female castes of the four species.

KEY TO MEMBERS OF *MYRMECOCYSTUS MELLIGER* COMPLEX

WORKERS

1. Worker maxima with head length equal to or exceeding maximum head width, the outer margins of head, in full face view, subparallel or slightly convex; frontal area with dense, distinct punctures; occiput, behind ocelli, with dense, fine punctures; erect mesonotal hairs longer than those of