

THE ANT GENUS *CONOMYRMA* IN THE UNITED STATES  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)<sup>1</sup>

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ABSTRACT: The generic name *Conomyrma* Forel is recognized as a valid genus and all United States species formerly assigned to *Dorymyrmex* are placed in *Conomyrma*. The subgenus *Biconomyrma* = *Conomyrma* (N. SYN.). The specific and varietal names applied to North American forms are considered and the following species are recognized: *bicolor* (Wheeler), *flavopecta* (M. Smith) and *insana* (Buckley) (= *pyramicus* of North American literature = *flavus* McCook = *nigra* Pergande = *antillana* Forel = *smithi* Cole = *brunnea* of North American literature = *wheeleri* Kusnezov, all N. SYN.).

*Conomyrma* was established by Forel (1913) as a subgenus of *Dorymyrmex*. Santschi (1922) designated *Prenolepis pyramica* Roger, one of the originally included species, as the type species of *Conomyrma*; Donisthorpe (1943) designated the same species as the type. The subgeneric name was rejected by Creighton (1950) on the grounds that *Conomyrma* was coextensive with *Dorymyrmex*, once those species lacking a propodeal tooth were removed to *Araucomyrmex*, as was done by Gallardo (1916).

Kusnezov (1952) restudied the problem and proposed to divide *Dorymyrmex* into two genera, *Dorymyrmex* and *Conomyrma*. Within *Dorymyrmex* five subgenera, including *Araucomyrmex*, were recognized. *Conomyrma* was divided into two subgenera: *Biconomyrma* and *Conomyrma*, s. str. The genus *Conomyrma* was separated from *Dorymyrmex* in the worker caste by the lack of a psammophore and in the female caste by the presence of a single, versus two, cubital cells in the forewing. Eisner (1957) noted that the proventriculi of the workers of *Dorymyrmex* and *Conomyrma* were different. Larvae were described by G. C. and J. Wheeler (1951) for "*Dorymyrmex pyramicus*" (= *Conomyrma pyramica*, sensu Kusnezov) and "*Araucomyrmex tener*" and differences between them were noted. The two were separated in the key by means of the posterior projection: a postero-ventrally directed cone in *pyramicus* and a knob in *tener*.

Kusnezov (1952) failed to designate type species for the new subgenera proposed, but corrected his oversight in a subsequent paper (1959). In this latter paper he proposed elevation of several of the subgenera recognized in 1952 to full generic status. Thus, *Biconomyrma* was elevated to generic level.

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