

M. R. Smith at first (1953A) accepted Wheeler's placement of *Romblonella* in the Meranoplini, but later (1953B) rejected it on the basis of newly accessible male characters, and proposed allocation to "the tribe Myrmecini, subtribe Podomyrmina (sic!) of Emery, 1922". This taxon included the Australasian genus *Podomyrma* and its apparent satellites, the sub-Saharan African *Atopomyrmex* André and *Terataner* Emery, and the Papuasian *Dilobocondyla* Santschi (along with *Atopula* Emery, now a junior synonym of *Tetramorium* (Bolton, 1976), and *Lordomyrma*) (Emery, 1922). *Podomyrma* (with Australian junior synonyms *Dacryon* Forel and *Pseudopodomyrma* Crawley (Brown, 1973; Taylor and Brown, 1985)), *Atopomyrmex*, *Dilobocondyla* and *Terataner* remain associated at genus-group level, along with the aberrant eastern Australian *Peronomyrmex* Viehmeyer (Taylor, 1970; Bolton, 1981), and possibly also the Oriental *Paratopula* Wheeler and Madagascan *Ireneopone* Donisthorpe (Bolton, 1988).

I have suggested elsewhere (Taylor, 1990) that *Podomyrma* could be close to, or even congeneric with, *Leptothorax*. This prospect remains under consideration in my current studies on the species and species-group-level taxonomy and affinities of *Podomyrma*. Relationship between the two genera appears to be strongly supported, implying that *Podomyrma* and its satellites properly belong in tribe Leptothoracini. If this is the case, Smith's placement of *Romblonella* and *Willowsiella* with *Podomyrma* and its relatives in effect implied relationship to *Leptothorax*.

Bolton (1981, p. 45) also inferred relationship between *Leptothorax* and *Romblonella/Willowsiella*, when he noted that the latter genera "both show a triangular prominence on each side of the petiole near the base of the node, such as is commonly seen in leptothoracines" and continued "whether there is any sort of relationship remains to be seen, although there are similarities between *Romblonella* and some tropical species of *Leptothorax*". The character discussed is present, incidentally, in many species of *Podomyrma*.

The hypotheses that *Willowsiella* and *Romblonella* are related to *Leptothorax*, and might therefore reasonably be classified in the tribe Leptothoracini, are implicit in the above suggestions, and will now be addressed.

*Leptothorax* has been characterized, with a review of its generic-level synonymy, by Bolton (1982: 321). Examination of the relevant