

definition and fundamental similarities, the three genera may reasonably be considered relatives.

The aberrant mesosomal configuration represented in both *Romblonella* and *Willowsiella* might seem to preclude relationship with *Leptothorax*, which is generally more conservative in this regard. This is clearly not a particular problem, considering the broadly similar (presumably homoplastic) attributes of the Neotropical *L. anduzei* Weber (Kempf, 1959, fig. 12).

Apart from *Leptothorax* (which, despite some hesitation by Bolton (1982:322), I take to include the Neotropical *Macromischa* Roger as a junior synonym, following Baroni Urbani, 1978) and several parasitic northern hemisphere genera, the Leptothoracini currently includes only the widespread paleotropical genus *Cardiocondyla* Mayr, which was reasonably assigned to the tribe by Bolton (1982: 311) (with the dissolution of tribe Cardiocondyliini). Francoeur and Loisele (1988), incidentally, on the basis of male genitalic attributes, have suggested that *Cardiocondyla* is more closely related to "*Nesomyrmex*" (which they did not consider to be a junior synonym of *Leptothorax*) than the latter is to their *Leptothorax* s. str.

There are marked similarities between *Willowsiella* and *Cardiocondyla* in the structure of the clypeo-frontal area (which for *Cardiocondyla* is "hinted at in some species of *Leptothorax*" (Bolton, 1982:311)), the transversity of the postpetiole, the reduced pilosity, sculpturation etc. These features might not be homologous, but they certainly reinforce the argument that the definition and possible phylogenetic integrity of the Leptothoracini would not be challenged by inclusion of *Willowsiella* in the tribe.

On these grounds I propose that *Romblonella* and *Willowsiella* should now be assigned to tribe Leptothoracini, along with *Leptothorax*, *Cardiocondyla*, and the various parasitic genera discussed by Bolton (1982). A further review in this context of *Podomyrma* and its satellites is in preparation, with discussion supporting an hypothesis of early Gondwanic diversification of the Leptothoracini, relative to which the northern hemisphere *Leptothorax* species are derivative and peripheral.