

Prolasius convexus* McAreeveyProlasius convexus* McAreevey, 1947: 15.*Prolasius nigriventris* McAreevey, 1947: 17. Syn.n.

This distinctive species was described from "The Dorrigo" (presumably Dorrigo N.P., or Mount Dorrigo, near Dorrigo, 30/152), N.S.W. I have examined the following type material: holotype (labelled "type"), paratype (so labelled, lacking head—a blank point denotes a lost specimen on the same pin), MVMA; 2 paratypes (so labelled), ANIC. These specimens are clearly conspecific with the compared types of *P. nigriventris* McAreevey, 1947 (Deal Island (39/147), Vic.: holotype (labelled "type", pinned with a separately pointed paratype male) and 3 paratypes (so labelled, 2 workers, 1 male), MVMA; 6 paratypes (so labelled, 8 workers, 1 male, mounted on 3 pins), ANIC).

Prolasius flavicornis* ClarkProlasius flavicornis* Clark, 1934: 69.*Prolasius flavidiscus* McAreevey, 1947: 21. Syn.n.*Prolasius flavicornis minor* McAreevey, 1947: 21. Syn.n.

P. flavicornis was described with type locality Beech Forest (38/143), Vic. Five paratypes (so labelled) on 2 pins are in the ANIC. They and the following types of the 2 new junior synonyms indicated above have been compared and found to be conspecific: (1) *P. flavidiscus* McAreevey 1947 (Mt Ben Cairn (37/145), Vic.: holotype (labelled "type", pinned with separately carded, dealate paratype queen), 2 paratypes (so labelled), MVMA; 11 topotypical type-compared vouchers mounted on 2 pins (ANIC); (2) *P. flavicornis minor* McAreevey 1947 (Sherbrooke Forest (37/145), Vic.: holotype (labelled "type"), 3 paratypes (so labelled), MVMA; 3 paratypes (so labelled), ANIC).

Prolasius formicoides* (Forel) Stat.n.Melophorus formicoides* Forel, 1902: 483.*Prolasius nitidissimus formicoides*: Wheeler, 1935: 71.

P. formicoides (Mackay (21/149), Qld; syntype, ANIC, donated by MHNG) is clearly distinct from *P. nitidissimus* (André, 1896) (Victorian Alps (37/146), Vic.; 2 syntypes (labelled "TYPE", mounted on 1 pin), ANIC, donated by Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris).

P. mjobergi (Forel) (Malanda (17/145), Qld) is a possible sibling species, or junior synonym of *formicoides*. Types of the 2 taxa differ mainly in body proportions, and in clypeal, frontal and pronotal chaetotaxy. Analysis of other material from North Queensland implies either that these features are substantially variable in a single species, or that several sibling species are present in that area.

Specimens of the first *Prolasius* species reported from Papua New Guinea are provisionally identified here as *P. formicoides*. They carry the following data: PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Black Cat Trail, 6 miles (9.6 km) E of Wau (07/146) (4500 ft (1370 m), nest (with queen), in rotten fragment of wood on ground, valley montane rain forest, BBL, 6.i.1971); 12 km S of Telefomin (5°15'S 141°15'E) (2100 m, nest (including large larvae, pupae, and callow workers), in *Hydnophytum* on ground, moss forest, P. S. Ward #4688, 5-6.vii.1980); same general data, workers taken foraging on low vegetation (P. S. Ward #4680). It is probably significant that these records, the only ones known for this southern, probably Gondwanic, genus on New Guinea, are from high elevations, in relatively temperate situations.

Prolasius nitidissimus* (André)Formica nitidissima* André, 1896: 255.*Prolasius niger* Clark, 1934: 68. Syn.n.*Prolasius depressiceps similis* McAreevey, 1947: 23. Syn.n.

P. nitidissimus (Victorian Alps (37/146), Vic.; 2 syntypes (labelled "TYPE", mounted on 1 pin), ANIC, donated by Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) is the senior Australian name in *Prolasius*. The following types have been compared with those of *nitidissimus* in determining the above synonymy: (1) *P. niger* Clark, 1934