

(1985) and Taylor (1987). Thirty-three of these were described by McAreavey (1957, 1949).

Fr. McAreavey's collection (including many relevant types; mainly in *Stigmacros* and *Prolasius*) lay virtually unattended and inaccessible in a Melbourne Jesuit house for some years before his death in March 1975. Thanks to prompt action at that time by Fr. B. B. Lowery it is now incorporated with the ANIC ant collection.

The holotypes of the McAreavey *Stigmacros* species, except *S. elegans* (ANIC), are in the MVMA collection, where they were originally deposited. Most of the paratypes are in the ANIC.

The type(s) of *S. aemula* Forel were almost certainly destroyed in Hamburg by World War II aerial bombing (Prof. O. Krauss, pers. comm.). It would not be appropriate here to designate a neotype, but the ANIC has specimens suitable for that purpose, determined by McAreavey.

The other 14 taxa described by authors preceding McAreavey are all represented in the ANIC by types (those of Forel and Viehmeyer donated respectively by the MHNG and ZMHB) or RWT type-compared paradigms.

Most available names, notably all of those with extant types described prior to McAreavey's 1957 paper, seem to represent good species. In addition, a number of apparently undescribed species are housed in the ANIC, enough probably at least to double the species' tally. *Stigmacros* is thus deserving of further taxonomic attention. The genus is, moreover, almost ubiquitous in southern mainland Australia, except in closed wet forests. Arrays of 4 or 5 sympatric species may be encountered at semi-arid or sub-humid collection sites. Foragers seem to be active mostly in the late afternoon and evening.

I have specifically compared worker types of Viehmeyer's *S. foreli* (4 syntypes ZMHB; 1 syntype ANIC, donated by ZMHB) and *S. fossulata* (1 syntype ZMHB; 1 syntype ANIC, donated by ZMHB) (both species described in 1925 from Trial Bay (30/153), N.S.W., and originally assigned to *Acantholepis* subgenus *Stigmacros*) with 3 syntypes (ANIC, donated by MHNG) of *S. froggatti* (Forel, 1902) (originally *Acantholepis* (*Acrostigma*) *froggatti*, Bong Bong (34/150), N.S.W.). These 3 names were considered synonyms in subgenus *Stigmacros* by McAreavey (1957), who did not study the Viehmeyer types. The separate type series are clearly not conspecific (indeed, *S. foreli* would relate to subgenus *Campostigmacros* in the McAreavey classification), and appear not to represent junior synonyms of prior names (I have compared them also with type material of the 6 pre-1925 names available in *Stigmacros*, and the 3 others described from Trial Bay by Viehmeyer in 1925). *S. foreli* and *S. fossulata* must therefore be reinstated as good species. As a result no species name currently assigned to *Stigmacros* is at present considered to be a junior synonym.

The transfer to *Stigmacros* by Shattuck (1990) of the putative dolichoderine described as *Turneria frenchi* by Forel (1911) requires amendment. Shattuck pointed out that: (1) the holotype of *T. frenchi* cannot be located; (2) its description is not applicable to any known *Turneria* species; (3) a specimen of an apparently undescribed *Stigmacros* species in the OXUM collection was once labelled by W. C. Crawley as *Turneria frenchi* (this was presumably one of the specimens from Mt Victoria, N.S.W., assigned "with some hesitation" to *T. frenchi* by Crawley in 1922); and (4) the *frenchi* description could apply to a species of "*Stigmacros* subgenus *Campstigmacros*". The conclusion followed that "The specimen Forel described is . . . apparently a *Stigmacros* rather than a *Turneria*, but it is not conspecific with the OXUM specimen", and the combination *Stigmacros frenchi* was proposed (Shattuck 1990: 105).

It is indisputable that Forel's description could apply to a *Stigmacros* (though Crawley's determination is barely influential in this assessment). However, transfer of such a questionable species to another genus, in another subfamily, where it will be more problematical than before, cannot be justified. Until its type is located and reassessed *Turneria frenchi* should properly be considered *incertae sedis* in family Formicidae, or *frenchi* a species *inquirenda* in *Turneria* (where it was assigned by