

*Cataglyphis floricola* nov. sp. new species for the genus  
*Cataglyphis* FÖRSTER, 1850 (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) in the  
Iberian Peninsula

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*Cataglyphis floricola*, nov. sp. is described and a number of peculiarities such as the double colouration are discussed. Some ant nests contain only black individuals whereas others have bicoloured (red and black) individuals. Geographic and biometric parameters suggest that these two types constitute a single species.

This species, known at the moment only in the Doñana National Park (Huelva), is phylogenetically close to *C. emmae* (FOREL, 1909), a species living in Saharan deserts. This relationship is analysed taking into account paleogeographic evidence to discuss the presence of this group of species in the south of the Iberian Peninsula.

Keywords: *Cataglyphis floricola*, new species, taxonomy, biometry, Formicidae, Iberian Peninsula

INTRODUCTION

In the present work, *Cataglyphis floricola* nov. sp., a new species for the genus *Cataglyphis* FÖRSTER, 1850, is described. The distribution of this species appears to be restricted to the terminal portion of the Guadalquivir Basin, an area which today includes the Doñana National Park (Huelva). This species is peculiar in a number of ways, including the circumstances surrounding its discovery. Revising the genus *Cataglyphis* for the Iberian Peninsula (TINAUT & PLAZA, 1989; TINAUT, 1990a and b), the author examined both museum material and specimens collected personally from numerous locations, including Doñana. In addition, reports on ants collected in Doñana National Park (DE HARO & COLLINGWOOD, 1977; TINAUT, 1991) cited only *C. iberica* (EMERY, 1906) and *C. rosenhaueri* (EMERY, 1906). Furthermore, among the six species recorded for the entire Iberian Peninsula, the species described in this work evidently did not appear, nor was it even suspected.

This new species was discovered in a series of unidentified *Cataglyphis* workers collected in Doñana by Dr. ESPADALER (Barcelona). After reviewing our own specimens from this area, and finding none which could be attributed to this species, we collected new material, which, surprisingly, showed a high frequency of this species in some zones of Doñana. Afterwards, we studied specimens from the same area collected by Soledad CARPINTERO (University of Córdoba) and Dr. Xim CERDA (University of Paris Nord), and found that *C. floricola* nov. sp. was indeed the major component.

Consequently, it is particularly striking that until now a species in such a conspicuous genus should have escaped notice. This oversight could be due to its similarity in size and colour with *C. iberica* (EMERY) and *C. rosenhaueri* (EMERY).

Another peculiarity of *C. floricola* nov. sp. is its dual colouration: one form is a monotone black or dark grey; the other is bicoloured, with the head and thorax red, and the gaster black. This dual colouration, appearing in a considerable num-