

(NHMB) [Examined]. *Syn. nov.*

*Pseudomyrma belti* subsp. *felloso* Wheeler, 1942:160. Syntype workers, Nicaragua (W. Fluck); Granada, Nicaragua (C. F. Baker) (MCZC) [Examined]. *Syn. nov.*

*P. flavicornis* is a widespread Central American acacia-ant, referred to in most publications as *P. belti*. Because the taxonomic status of *P. belti* and its various "subspecies" or "varieties" has never been fully clarified, I have little hesitation in replacing *P. belti* with the less well-known senior synonym. Of the various infraspecific names associated with *P. belti* (see Kempf, 1972), only two (*P. obnubilus* and *P. felloso*) are here considered synonyms of *P. flavicornis*. One of the remaining names refers to an apparently distinct species (*P. veneficus* Wheeler), while the others are synonyms of *P. ferrugineus* (q.v.). The worker of *P. flavicornis* is distinguished from other obligate acacia-ants (*P. ferrugineus* group) by its dark brown or black color (mesosoma sometimes contrastingly lighter); broad, densely punctate, opaque head which lacks a subclucid area posteromesad of the compound eye (in contrast to *P. ferrugineus*); and narrow, anteroventrally subtended, median clypeal lobe, whose lateral corners are rounded.

*Pseudomyrmex gracilis* (Fabricius)

*Formica gracilis* Fabricius, 1804:405. Syntype worker, Essequibo, Guyana (Smidt) (ZMUC) [Examined]; here designated LECTOTYPE.

*Pseudomyrma variabilis* F. Smith, 1877:62. Syntype worker, "Barbadoes" (BMNH) [Examined]; here designated LECTOTYPE. *Syn. nov.*

The lectotype worker of *P. gracilis*, although lacking a head, seems to correspond rather well to the concept of *P. gracilis* which has become prevalent in publications. The mesosoma, postpetiole, and gaster are dark brown to black, the petiole a contrasting light castaneous brown; fine, silvery (not black) pilosity covers most of the body, and the associated piligerous punctures subdue the lustre of the integument; the petiole is narrow and slender, with a long anterior peduncle; and the pronotum is margined laterally but not sharply so. I do not attach much taxonomic significance to the light-colored petiole. The *P. gracilis* lectotype worker agrees well with material from Kartabo, Guyana (leg. Wheeler) in which there is variable infuscation of the petiole. A second worker in the *P. gracilis* "type series" in ZMUC, with a red "TYPE" label, but no locality or identification label, is in fact not conspecific (it is a worker of *P. maculatus* (F. Smith)) and should be excluded from consideration as type.

There is a bewildering and variable array of forms, variously described as subspecies or "varieties" of *P. gracilis*, which require detailed taxonomic study. I suspect that most of these will prove to be synonyms of a single polytypic species (*P. gracilis*), but at this stage there is insufficient information about the intra- and inter-specific components of this variation. One unambiguous synonymy can be established here: the lectotype worker of *P. variabilis* (F. Smith) in BMNH agrees very closely with that of *P. gracilis*, the only substantial difference being that the *P.*