

## SOME ATTINE SYNONYMS AND TYPES

(HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE)

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Studies in the European Forel, Santschi and Emery collections of attine or fungus-growing ants<sup>1</sup>, supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, have shown that a number of synonyms exist. Some in *Atta* and *Trachymyrmex* have been published (Weber, 1958, Ent. News 69:7-13 and 49-55) the present records are by genera listed below. These synonyms reflect not only the direct examination of types but a growing realization, based on field and laboratory studies, that considerable infraspecific variation is normal. The attine tribe as a group consists of spiny and ferruginous workers and it has been found true particularly that the exact proportions of spines and the color varies considerably within a colony. As so often has been the case, a description of a new species based on one or two known specimens can hardly picture the true situation. For this reason it should be useful to redescribe some species, indicate where the types now are and if possible to show where conspecific material may be found.

*Cyphomyrmex rimosus* ssp. *minutus* Mayr1862. *Cyphomyrmex minutus* Mayr, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, 12:691.

Forel, Santschi and Emery were in agreement on the common *Cyphomyrmex* form as shown by the specimens so labeled in their collections. They placed them under *Cyphomyrmex rimosus minutus*. The proper name to be applied to it is another matter since their collections do not contain any types of Spinola or Mayr, the describers of *rimosus* (recorded from Pará, Brazil) and *minutus* (from Cuba).

The specimens listed by Forel, Santschi and Emery as *minutus* are the same form considered by the author (Weber, 1940, Rev. de Ent. 11:406-427 and *Ibid.*, 12:93-130) to be the widely distributed *rimosus* of the islands and shores of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea and the mainland south to Brazil and Bolivia. In the Forel Collection is a pin marked "Cotypus" with the labels: "*C. Steinheili* ♂ Forel, Brasil; *C. rimosus* Spin. r. *minutus* Mayr, coll. A. Forel." The single worker is on a minuten nadeln with heavy iron salt spicules protruding from the high part of the thorax.<sup>2</sup> It has a thorax length of 1.09

<sup>1</sup> That of Forel in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Geneva, Switzerland; of Santschi in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland; and of Emery in the Museo Civico Di Storia Naturale, Genoa, Italy. The authorities of these museums were most helpful in making available their collections for study.

<sup>2</sup> The term "thorax", as used generally in myrmecology, is taken to mean the compact, rigid part separated from the head and petiolar node or nodes by sharp constrictions. The fact that in its development it may include the first abdominal segment need not obscure the primary concept of a well understood central structure that bears the legs (and wings in males and females). The term "alitrunk", used in place of "thorax", is inaccurate when applied to the wingless worker ant, is a longer word and does not appear to be an improvement.