

Larvae of the Formicine Ant Genus *Polyrhachis*

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ABSTRACT

The mature larval stages of 11 species of *Polyrhachis* from Malaysia are described. For 5 of these species (*armata*, *bihamata*, *muelleri*, *scissa* and *ypsilon*) all 5 instars are described. The 17 species that we have described in previous publications are cited but descriptions are not repeated. We are unable to differentiate the larvae of the 10 subgenera studied: the differences among the larvae of the 38 species are not congruent with adult differences and they are not of subgeneric magnitude. We have also stressed the homogeneity of the genera of the tribe Camponotini.

The Old World genus *Polyrhachis* and the cosmopolitan *Camponotus* both belong to the tribe Camponotini, the former has monomorphic workers, while the latter is highly polymorphic. According to Emery's "Genera Insectorum" *Camponotus* is the world's largest genus with 618 species, while *Polyrhachis* is third with 359 species. Wheeler (1922) recognized 36 subgenera in *Camponotus* but only 12 in *Polyrhachis*.

The 11 species of *Polyrhachis* described here for the first time are all from Malaysia, thanks to the very generous donation of Dr. Wolfgang Dorow of Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, West Germany.

Dr. Dorow included three one-liter bottles each containing the entire brood from a single nest, in order that we might estimate the numbers. Our results follow:

Polyrhachis bihamata, coll. No. 173: 7000 larvae, 5200 pupae.

Polyrhachis bellicosa, coll. No. 139: 13,000 larvae, 3900 pupae.

Polyrhachis ypsilon, coll. No. 156: 11,600 larvae, 6500 pupae.

We are using the mature larva of *Polyrhachis (Myrmhopla) muelleri* Forel as the standard because we have all stages from the first instar inside the egg through prepupa. The other species are described only as they differ from *P. muelleri*. They are arranged alphabetically under subgenera, which are arranged alphabetically.

The 17 species previously described by us are cited by year and page. They were based on a comparison with the mature larva of *P. (Chariomyrma) hookeri* Lowne (Wheeler and Wheeler 1953:205).

Polyrhachis muelleri differs from *P. hookeri* in the following details. The entire