

**THE LARVA OF *BLEPHARIDATTA*
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)**

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Abstract.—The larva of the myrmicine genus *Blepharidatta* is described for the first time and illustrated. The genus is transferred from the tribe Ochetomyrmecini to a new tribe Blepharidattini.

HISTORY

Wheeler described the genus *Blepharidatta* in 1915 and assigned it to the myrmicine tribe Attini; he added, "but it differs so much from the other known genera in the structure of the head and especially the 2-jointed club of the antennae, the 4-toothed mandible and the regularly arranged setiform hairs on the dorsal surface, that it seems necessary to establish a distinct genus for its accommodation. Apart from the head the structure of the body is very simple and primitive for an Attiine [sic!] ant, even simpler and more primitive than in the genus *Proatta*, recently established by Forel for a unique Sumatran species." Wheeler also described as the type species *brasiliensis* from Pará, Brazil.

Gallardo (1916:319) reported finding several worker ants at Alta Gracia, a mountain resort ca. 20 mi south of Córdoba, which is in the province of Córdoba, in north-central Argentina.

Emery (1921-1922) placed *Blepharidatta* in the Dacetini (p. 12) because of its "tête cordiforme, échancrée par derrière et fort rétrécie devant" and separated it from the other genera (p. 313) by the "scrobe occupant tout le bord latéral de la tête; mandibules courtes, pouvant se croiser." He gave the distribution (p. 315-316) as "Brésil: Pará. Argentine" and said: "Cette Fourmis a une ressemblance frappante avec le genre fossile *Hypopomyrmex* de l'ambre de Sicile. M. Wheeler classe le genre *Blepharidatta* parmi les Attini. Il me semble avoir bien plus d'affinité avec les Dacetini."

Wheeler stated (1922:376) that the habits of *Blepharidatta* are unknown. In his key to genera (p. 668) he separated *Blepharidatta* from all other attine genera by its distinct 2-jointed antennal club and its long antennal scrobes.

In 1953 Brown transferred *Blepharidatta* to the tribe Ochetomyrmecini because it is "very closely related to the species of *Wasmannia* Forel, differing chiefly in its more elongate head with produced posterior angles and in having a long, low petiolar node."

Kempf in 1967 described a second species (*B. conops*), from Três Lagoas, Mato Grosso State, Brazil. He also placed the genus in the tribe Ochetomyrmecini.

In 1975 Kempf devoted several pages to prove that *Ochetomyrmex* and *Wasmannia* could not be in the same tribe and suggested "at least as a provisional solution, the transfer of *Ochetomyrmex* to the Solenopsidine tribal complex, in the sense of