

Table 1. Comparison of 18 characters of workers of *Blepharidatta*, *Cyphomyrmex* and *Wasmannia*.

Character	<i>Wasmannia</i>	<i>Blepharidatta</i>	<i>Cyphomyrmex</i>
1. Castes	monomorphic	monomorphic	monomorphic
2. Mandible	triangular	triangular	triangular
3. Mandibular teeth	4 subequal	4 subequal	4 subequal
4. Eyes	moderately large and protruding	moderately large and protruding	moderately large and protruding
5. Antennal segments	11	11	11
6. Epinotal spines	present	present	none
7. Humeral angles	dentiform	dentiform	rounded
8. Frontal carinae	not lobulate below	lobulate below	lobulate below
9. Scrobe	shallow	deep	deep
10. Sting	well developed	vestigial	vestigial
11. Dorsal corners of head	rounded	angularly tuberculate	rounded
12. Mesoepinotal suture	present	absent	present
13. Antennal club	3-segmented	2-segmented	no club
14. Petiole	large; node high, narrow	long; low node present or absent	short, low, wide
15. Postpetiole	normal	small	large
16. Gaster	1st somite long, others small	small	small, 1st somite covers others
17. Body hairs	long, erect, sparse	long, bristly, erect on dorsum	appressed, rather scale-like
18. Thoracic sculpture	rugae only	rugae and punctures	bosses or carinae

To us, this means that *Blepharidatta* should be placed in a monotypic tribe, if only adult anatomy is considered. However, taxonomists now maintain that a species should be defined by *all* its characters.

LARVAE

In September 1989 we received from Dr. J. Lattke in Caracas, Venezuela a most welcome gift of 2 workers and 12 larvae of *B. brasiliensis*. These not only enabled us to examine a very rare ant species but to describe a larva new to us and perhaps to shed some light on the tribal problem.

Blepharidatta brasiliensis Wheeler

Fig. 1

Length (through spiracles) 1.5–2 mm. Profile attoid; segmentation indistinct; spiracles on T2 0.01 mm in diameter, decreasing gradually to 0.008 mm on AI, and to 0.006 mm on AVIII. Integument minutely spinulose, the spinules more numerous