

A SINGULAR NEOTROPICAL ANT (*PSEUDOMYRMA  
FILIFORMIS* FABRICIUS).<sup>1</sup>

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In his "Systema Piezatorum," published in 1804, Fabricius described a remarkable neotropical ant as *Formica filiformis*, in the single sentence: "Formica elongata, filiformis, flava, abdominis basi nigricante, petioli binodi." In a second sentence, after the citation of the locality: "Habitat in America meridionale. Dom. Smidt, Mus. Dom. de Sehestedt," he reworded the description, with the addition of the adjective "parvum." The description undoubtedly refers to a dealated female specimen and not to a worker, as stated by Dalla Torre in his "Catalogus Hymenopterorum" (Vol. 7, 1893, p. 56).

In 1855 Frederick Smith described all three phases of the same ant from specimens taken by H. W. Bates at Villa Nova, Brazil, but named it *Pseudomyrma cephalica*. Smith was greatly interested in the ants of the genus *Pseudomyrma* and the ant under consideration seems to have been a particular favorite with him, for he published more figures of it than of any other species. What interested him most was undoubtedly the very aberrant character of the female, especially of its head, for in all other species of *Pseudomyrma* the female is very much like the worker. Though brief his description of all three phases of *filiformis* is clear, and his drawings though schematic enable one to recognize the species without difficulty.

Since the time of Frederick Smith myrmecological literature contains no unequivocal reference to the worker of Fabricius' species either under the name of *filiformis* or of *cephalica*. This is because Forel, in the *Biologia Centrali-Americana* (1899-1900), redescribed and figured the worker from Guatemala as *Ps. biconvexa* and continued to cite it under that name till 1912 when he published the latest reference I have seen of the insect. I am certain of the specific identity of *biconvexa* with *filiformis*, because during the winter of 1911-1912 I found two fine colonies in Guatemala, each containing, not only numerous females and males

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