

THE SUBFAMILIES OF FORMICIDÆ, AND OTHER  
TAXONOMIC NOTES.<sup>1</sup>

BY WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER.

A comparison of the seventh volume of Dalla Torre's "Catalogus Hymenopterorum," which summarizes what was known of the classification of the Formicidæ down to 1890, with any very recent monograph of these insects, gives the impression that there has been no change in expert opinion concerning the limits of the family and its subfamilies during the past thirty years. Dalla Torre recognizes five subfamilies, the Dorylinæ, Ponerinæ, Myrmiciniæ, Dolichoderinæ and Camponotinæ and the same groups are retained in Emery's contributions to the "Genera Insectorum" (1910-'13), so far as published, and in his recent sketch of the classification of the Myrmiciniæ (1914). Between the appearance of the "Catalogus" and the works just mentioned, however, Emery, who has shown greater interest than other myrmecologists in the definition of taxonomic categories above the rank of the genus, proposed an additional subfamily, the Pseudomyrmiciniæ in 1899, and in 1895 transferred a group of genera, comprising the tribe Cerapachyini, from the Ponerinæ, where it had been placed by Forel in 1893, to the Dorylinæ. After Forel and I had objected to this proceeding, Emery, in the "Genera Insectorum" (1913) returned the Cerapachyini to the Ponerinæ, but gave them the rank of a section, the Prodorylinæ. He had long since reunited the Pseudomyrmiciniæ with the Myrmiciniæ. In his most recent sketch of the classification of this subfamily (1914) he unites the tribes Metaponini and Pseudomyrmini as the first section, the Promyrmiciniæ, and places all the other tribes in a second section, the Eumyrmiciniæ. Thus in 1920 the five subfamilies have again acquired the limits which they had in 1890.

During the past year a study of ant-larvæ, representing more than a hundred genera and many subgenera of all five subfamilies, has convinced me that Emery was right in 1899, when he regarded the Pseudomyrmiciniæ as constituting an independent subfamily. I am also of the opinion that the Cerapachyini should be removed

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