

A second look at the ants of the *Camponotus herculeanus*  
group in Eastern Asia

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Only six years ago, we reviewed the Palaearctic members of the *Camponotus herculeanus* group, with special reference to the forms of eastern Asia (Yasumatsu and Brown, 1951). The most important taxonomic decisions then reached concerned the groups *herculeanus-japonicus* and *obscuripes-hemichlaena*. We decided that *C. japonicus* G. Mayr was a temperate Asian race of the boreal *C. herculeanus* (Linnaeus), and that *hemichlaena* Yasumatsu et Brown was a south Japanese race of *C. obscuripes* G. Mayr, following the concepts of population systematics as summarized by E. Mayr (1942).

Within two years, however, the concept of subspecies as applied to animal systematics came into serious question (Wilson and Brown, 1953), so that a reappraisal of the *C. herculeanus* allies in eastern Asia was clearly called for. Such a reappraisal became possible under unusually favorable circumstances when, in 1956, Yasumatsu was able to visit the United States under the auspices of the Ministry of Education of the Japanese Government and had the opportunity to discuss the situation with Brown directly for the first time. At this meeting, we both had a chance to examine and consider additional information and material bearing on the *herculeanus*-complex problem, and as a result, we are able to offer a new interpretation that we believe to be more accurately representative of the natural relationships of the forms concerned.

A.—*C. herculeanus*, *japonicus* and *atrox*

In our 1951 paper, we offered evidence for the conspecificity of *japonicus* and *herculeanus*. This evidence consisted largely of the