

**A Review of the Ant Genus *Mycocepurus* Forel, 1893
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae)**

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(With 14 text-figures)

In a paper on the Formicidae of the Antillean island St. Vincent, Forel (1893a: 369-372) created the genus-group name *Mycocepurus* for two new and very small fungus-growing ants (Subfamily Myrmicinae, tribe Attini) described simultaneously, one — *smithi* — from St. Vincent, the other — *goeldii* — from southern Brazil. Since then the group has been growing by steady addition of new forms reaching a total of 8 species, 1 subspecies and 5 varieties.

After amassing a considerable number of specimens, including the types of 8 forms, and studying them carefully, I reached the conclusion that this growth was merely fictitious and that the genus *Mycocepurus* really comprehends at the most 4 species, two of them still beset with grave doubts. In establishing new forms in the genus, most of the preceding myrmecologists seem to have paid excessive attention to minute details, not taking into account that color, sculpture, development, size and direction of the spines, denticles, tubercles on head, thorax and pedicel are extremely variable. As a matter of fact, these characters are unreliable inasmuch as they vary not only from population to population but even to a considerable extent among members of the same colony.

The present review, aside from a generic definition and a characterization of each species, also includes extensive synonymy, many new and seemingly important distributional data, and a summary of what is known of the biology of *goeldii* and *smithi*.

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