

joining the leaves of various trees and shrubs with silk.

***Polyrhachis creusa* Emery, 1897**

Polyrhachis creusa Emery, 1897:577. Type locality: New Guinea, Ighibirei (holotype examined, MCSN).

Polyrhachis creusa var. *chlorizans* Forel, 1901:30. Type locality: Bismarck Archipelago, Ralum (04/152) (Papua New Guinea (PNG), East New Britain Prov.) (4 syntypes examined, MHNG). syn.nov.

Polyrhachis hecuba Forel, 1902:527. Type locality: Qld, Mackay (21/149) (2 syntypes examined, ANIC). syn.nov.

The *creusa* holotype has somewhat less clearly expressed gastral shagreening than the *chlorizans* syntypes. This difference is slight, however, and does not justify separate specific status.

When describing *P. creusa* Emery noted its similarity to the then unpublished *P. hecuba* Forel (of which Forel had sent him specimens). Comparison of the types shows that these names are synonyms. In fact, were it not for modern material collected in both New Guinea and Australia, we would suspect that one of the type series had been mislabelled, so closely do they match. It is historically of interest to note that Forel had evidently distributed identified specimens of *P. hecuba* by 1897, five years before he formally published the name.

Modern type-compared ANIC vouchers are from Mingende (05/144), Papua New Guinea (collected in grassland at 5000ft elevation, B.B. Lowery, 13.i.1968), and Finch Hatton Gorge, Eungella Nat. Park (21/148), Qld (7-13 April 1975, RJK). The *creusa chlorizans* types were taken 'im Graslande und am Strande' (Forel, 1901). This species is widely distributed both geographically and altitudinally and, like other species discussed here that are found both in Australia and New Guinea, it was probably vicariantly isolated when the two lands were last separated.

***Polyrhachis denticulata* Karawajew, 1927**

Polyrhachis (Hagiomyrma) denticulata Karawajew, 1927:13. Type locality: Amboina (= Ambon), Indonesia (syntype examined IZAS).

P. denticulata has been reported previously

only from the Moluccas and New Guinea. The first Australian record is based on a single worker collected on Mabuiag Island (09/142), Torres Strait (1974, H. Heatwole and E. Cameron; ANIC).

Recent Papua New Guinea records are from at or near Lae (06/147), Buna (08/148), Oro Bay (08/148), and Milne Bay (10/150).

***Polyrhachis guerini* Roger, 1863**

Although its holotype cannot be located in any relevant European collection and appears to have been lost, *P. guerini* may be recognised as the only *Polyrhachis* species known from New Caledonia, where it has been abundantly collected. In lieu of the type we recognise several ANIC voucher specimens from Mt Panié (20°34'S, 164°46'E) (*Melaleuca* scrub, 120m, 15 February 1977, P.S. Ward acc. 2218) as the nomenclatural paradigms of the name *guerini*. Designation of a neotype would not be appropriate here.

The Australian species *P. lata*, *P. pallescens* and *P. vermiculosa* were first described as subspecies of *P. guerini* (see below). We have seen no Australian specimens that are conspecific with the New Caledonian species and consider *P. guerini* to be endemic to New Caledonia. It was originally described from 'Neuholland', but this citation seems to have been an error (Emery, 1897:588-589; Emery, 1914:428).

***Polyrhachis heinlethii* Forel, 1895**

Polyrhachis heinlethii Forel, 1895:47. Type locality: Qld, Mackay (21/149) (6 syntypes examined, MHNG, ANIC).

Polyrhachis heinlethii var. *sophiae* Forel, 1902:521. Type locality: Qld, Mackay (21/149) (5 syntypes examined, MHNG, ANIC). syn.nov.

P. heinlethii sophiae was putatively distinguished from the nominotypical subspecies by its smaller size, the shape and length of its pronotal and propodeal spines, and its more regularly striate pronotal dorsum. These characters are now known to vary infraspecifically. Examination of numerous specimens from throughout the range of *P. heinlethii* has revealed no other taxonomically significant variation. This is a ground nesting species which inhabits open forests and woodlands. It is known from Mt Ossa, NQ, south to Campbelltown, New South Wales (NSW). (Grid cells 20/148, 20/149,