

25/153, 26/153, 27/152, 27/153, 28/153, 34/150).

***Polyrhachis hookeri* Lowne, 1865**

Polyrhachis hookeri Lowne, 1865:334. Type locality: NSW, vicinity of Sydney (as Sidney) (33/151) (types presumed lost).

Polyrhachis hookeri var. *aerea* Forel, 1902:521. Type locality: Qld, Mackay (21/149) (2 syntype workers, 1 alate queen examined, MHNG). syn.nov.

Lowne's type material of *P. hookeri* cannot be found in the collections of the BMNH or OXUM and must be presumed to have been lost (Bolton, pers. comm.). The original description, however, enables reasonably confident identification of this species. In lieu of a type we recognise a toptypical worker (ANIC) from Manly Reservoir, Sydney (33/151), NSW (sandstone scrub, 250ft, 19.v.1960, B.B. Lowery) as the nomenclatural paradigm of the name *hookeri*. Designation of a neotype would not be appropriate here, because the type(s) might still be extant. Comparison of syntypes of *P. hookeri aerea* with this paradigm, and with other specimens collected near Sydney, shows them to be conspecific.

P. hookeri is a common ground-nesting ant which inhabits open forests and woodlands. It ranges from NQ to central coastal NSW (Grid cells 19/146, 20/148, 20/149, 21/148, 21/149, 22/149, 23/149, 23/150, 25/153, 27/150, 27/152, 27/153, 28/151, 28/152, 33/151). Specimens from N and CQ tend generally to be relatively large, with more acute pronotal spines than those of other series, and with the colour of the mesosomal dorsum ranging from bright metallic green to various shades of blue and purple. Southern specimens are generally somewhat smaller, with the pronotal spines less strongly projecting and the mesosomal dorsum more uniformly green. These forms, however, intergrade, and we perceive a single, somewhat variable, species.

***Polyrhachis lata* Emery, 1895 stat.nov.**

Polyrhachis guerini ssp. *lata* Emery, 1895:357. Type locality: Qld, Somerset (10/142) (syntype examined, MHNG).

Polyrhachis (Chariomyrma) gab var. *aegra* Forel, 1915:109. Type locality: Qld, Atherton (17/145) (6 syntypes examined, MHNG). (Raised to species by Kohout, 1988:49). syn.nov.

Comparison of the *P. guerini lata* syntype with the ANIC nomenclatural paradigms of *P. guerini* (see above) and consideration of other Australian and New Caledonian material shows *P. guerini* and *P. lata* to be separate species. Comparison of the *lata* and *aegra* syntypes shows that they are conspecific. *P. lata* is known from the Torres Strait (Horn I.) and Cape York Peninsula, south to Rundle Range near Gladstone, Qld (Grid cells 10/142, 16/146, 17/145, 17/146, 19/147, 20/148, 21/148, 23/150). It is an inhabitant of open sclerophyll forests and savannah woodlands.

***Polyrhachis lownei* Forel, 1895 stat.nov.**

Polyrhachis hookeri r. *lownei* Forel, 1895:44. Type locality: Qld, Mackay (21/149) (10 syntype workers, 1 alate queen examined, MHNG, ANIC).

The most obvious difference between syntypes of *P. hookeri lownei* and specimens considered here to be conspecific with the ANIC nomenclatural paradigm of *P. hookeri* (see above) is the colour of the mesosomal dorsum. In *hookeri* this ranges from metallic green to blue and purple, while in *lownei* it is uniformly very dark brown, at times almost black. Also, the propodeal spines in *hookeri* are relatively short (distinctly shorter than the distance between their bases), straight and divergent, while in *lownei* they are longer (with length equal to or exceeding the distance between their bases), and are gently curved, so that the extreme apices project posteriorly. We consider these types to represent separate species. *P. lownei* appears to be uncommon, and is perhaps confined to the higher altitude sclerophyll forests of NQ, from Kuranda south to Eungella, inland from the type locality (Grid cells 16/145, 18/145, 18/146, 21/148).

***Polyrhachis mucronata* Fr.Smith, 1859**

Polyrhachis mucronatus Fr.Smith, 1859:140. Type locality: Indonesia, Aru (= Kepulauan Aru, 06/134) (holotype examined, OXUM).

P. mucronata has been reported previously only from Kepulauan Aru (Moluccas) and New Guinea. It has recently been taken at a number of localities on or adjacent to Cape York Peninsula. Examination of the holotype and of all available Australian and New Guinean specimens shows *mucronata* to be somewhat variable. However, the observed differences between specimens