

smaragdina (Fabricius)), and that the alate type-queen from Malanda had probably flown to elevations beyond the usual nesting range.

Polyrhachis yorkana Forel, 1915 stat.nov.

Polyrhachis (Cyrtomyrma) rastellata var. *yorkana* Forel, 1915:110. Type locality: Qld, Cape York Peninsula (syntypes examined, ANIC).

P. yorkana is the oldest available name based on Australian type-material that is applicable to a widespread species (or complex of species) represented throughout the range of the subgenus 'Cyrtomyrma' in eastern Australia (i.e. from Cape York south to near 30°S in coastal eastern NSW). These ants are relatively nondescript, lacking any of the features discriminating more easily characterised *Cyrtomyrma* species (such as propodeal spines, abundant gastral or mesosomal/gastral pilosity, dense body pubescence), except for a tuft of fewer than 10 long hairs on the summit of the strongly arched mesosoma. Similar ants are present in SE Asia and New Guinea, so that senior names based on foreign specimens could be applicable to the Australian species.

All available names of the species-group have identical status in nomenclature regardless of their rank, and the assigning of species rank to the names of unresolved taxa of the species-group seems the best course to follow. For these reasons we here attribute full specific rank to *P. yorkana*. We suspect that it will survive as a good species following revision of *Polyrhachis*.

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