

Moreover, the type locality abutts with the geographic range of *fracticornis* (Fig. 6), and is only known from its type. I have not seen the type, and must retain this taxon with much reservation.

Acromyrmex (Moellerius) silvestrii (Emery)

Atta (Moellerius) silvestrii EMERY¹⁰: 108, ♀; EMERY¹¹; FOREL²⁰.

Acromyrmex (Moellerius) silvestrii, SANTSCHI⁴⁷.

Acromyrmex (Moellerius) mesopotamicus GALLARDO²⁶: 337, ♀; SANTSCHI⁴⁷. (NEW SYNONYM)

TYPE LOCALITY: La Carlota, Cordoba, Argentina.

MAJOR WORKER:

Diagnosis: Thoracic spines variable, ranging from poorly developed (ex. *mesopotamicus*) to well-developed. Medial pronotal spines vestigial or absent. Carinae and frons heavily striated, which is not the case in *striatus*.

Description: EMERY¹⁰.

Variation: This taxon is highly variable with respect to thoracic spination. Generally, more northern populations have longer spines, but a large degree of inter and intranidal variation in this character obviates its taxonomic usefulness. SANTSCHI⁴⁷ commented upon the apparent hybridization of *mesopotamicus* with *silvestrii*, in that phenae classifiable to both could be found in the same nest, as well as intermediate forms. After examining many specimens from Argentina, I have found that this is indeed true, and prudence calls for the taxon of *mesopotamicus* to be synonymized with *silvestrii*.

Distribution: (Fig. 6).

Acromyrmex (Moellerius) striatus (Roger)

Atta striata ROGER⁴¹: 202-203, ♀, ♀, ♂.

Atta (Acromyrmex) striata, IHERING³¹.

Atta (Moellerius) striata, EMERY^{10, 11}; FOREL²¹; SANTSCHI⁴².

Acromyrmex (Moellerius) striatus, BRUCH⁴; GALLARDO²⁶; SANTSCHI⁴³; BORGMEIER²; WHEELER⁵⁷; CARBONELL⁷; FERREIRA LIMA¹⁶; KUSNEZOV³²; GOMES COSTA²⁸; GONÇALVES²⁹; FOWLER^{24, 25}.

Acromyrmex (Moellerius) striatus var. *laeviventris* SANTSCHI⁴⁴: 320, ♀ (NEW SYNONYM).

TYPE LOCALITY: Montevideo, Uruguay.

MAJOR WORKER:

Diagnosis: Gena with longitudinal striations. Medial pronotal spines absent or vestigial. Lateral pronotal spines and anterior mesonotal spines well developed. 3rd gastral segment smooth and shiny, without tubercles.

Description: ROGER⁴¹.

Variation: This species is the least variable of all taxa of this subgenus. The variety *laeviventris* was based solely upon the coloration of the gaster, and not be further recognized. This taxon can be grouped with *silvestrii* and *heyeri* based upon worker morphology and