

A NEW SPECIES OF *MEGALOMYRMEX*  
FROM THE CHILEAN ANDES  
(FORMICIDAE, HYMENOPTERA)

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The genus *Megalomyrmex* has generally been thought of as associated with the wet tropical rain-forests of the New World. Members of the *goeldii* species-group in particular forage openly on the rain-forest floor and tend Homoptera on low bushes. It was thus a considerable surprise to receive a few specimens of a *goeldii* group species collected only 25 miles from the crest of the Andes in Chile. This is a new species, and its discovery extends the genus into a new habitat.

The specimens under study were found by Mr. E. Ackerman at Pachon Peak (Cerro Pachon), near La Serena, Coquimbo Province, Chile, at an altitude of  $8500 \pm 100$  feet. The collection site is a rather flat hill crest with sparse low shrub cover; the substrate is andesite boulders resting on andesite rubble and soil. The colonies, Mr. Ackerman notes, were populous and by no means rare. A few live workers were sent to Dr. Caryl P. Haskins of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who placed the workers in a laboratory nest; a few eggs were laid, from which three larvae were reared. All the material was later sent to me; this consisted of four live workers and three preserved larvae. My thanks are offered to Dr. Haskins for allowing me to study this interesting species.

Measuring techniques and abbreviations quoted below follow the system of Brown (1) while certain other terminology follows Etter-shank (2).

***Megalomyrmex bicolor* n. sp.**

Holotype worker (measurements in millimeters; those for two paratype workers are enclosed in parentheses): total length, TL 4.8 (4.6, 4.4), head length, HL 1.04 (0.98, 0.94), length closed mandibles, ML 0.24 (0.22, 0.20), alitrunk length, WL 1.34 (1.32, 1.26), head width, HW 1.00 (0.92, 0.88). Cephalic index, CI =  $100 \text{ HW/HL} = 96$  (94, 94), mandibular index =  $100 \text{ ML/HL}$

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