

Tapinoma (the former occur in the Baltic Amber, but the latter do not), *Bothriomyrmex* changed hosts, and became parasites on the *Tapinoma erraticum* group. Forel (1874) was the first to discover a mixed nest of *Bothriomyrmex-Tapinoma*. On 23 June 1871 he found the two species *Bothriomyrmex meridionalis* Forel (1894) nec Roger (1863) = *B. corsicus* Sants. subsp. *gallicus* Emery (1925), and *Tapinoma erraticum* Latr. living together under a stone "au dessus de Stresa (Iles Borromées)". He explained this as having been caused by an alliance of a queen of each species. The temporary social parasitic habits of certain ants had, of course, not been discovered at that date.

Santschi was the first to make known the colony-founding habits of this genus. The method employed by the Dolichoderine parasite *Bothriomyrmex decapitans*, which was first observed by Santschi at Kairouan in Tunis in January and February 1906, is as follows: The young queen after the marriage flight wanders about in search of a nest of *Tapinoma nigerrimum*, where she is seized and dragged into the nest by the workers. She is slightly attacked in the nest, but climbs on to the brood, or on the back of the queen, when she seems to be safe from attack. While on the back of the queen, she kills her by cutting off her head. After the death of the *Tapinoma* queen the intruder is accepted in her place. Eventually the host workers die off, and a pure *Bothriomyrmex* colony remains. The matter is facilitated by the fact that the female *Bothriomyrmex* possesses the shape, colour, and smell of the larger *Tapinoma* workers. This odour is most evident in the young queens, and Santschi has called it olfactory mimicry.

It seems fairly clear that the palaeartic species of *Bothriomyrmex* are temporary social parasites on forms of *Tapinoma erraticum* and *T. nigerrimum*, and those of the Indo-Australian fauna on species of *Iridomyrmex*.

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