

**THE ANTS OF THE GENUS *THAUMATOMYRMEX* MAYR WITH  
THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW PANAMANIAN SPECIES  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)**

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Included in the ponerine genus *Thaumatomyrmex* Mayr are some of the rarest and most primitive of all ants, whose distribution is apparently entirely neotropical. Previous to the discovery of the new species described in this article only six species were known, one each having been found in Cuba, Honduras, Venezuela, British Guiana and Trinidad, Brazil, and Bolivia. The total number of known specimens of described species probably does not exceed a dozen individuals and very peculiarly all of these are workers. Since no one has been fortunate enough to discover a colony of these ants, information is lacking as to nesting sites, size of colonies, and the nature of their food.

Few ants are more easily recognized generically than the extraordinary workers of *Thaumatomyrmex*. They can be readily identified by a combination of the following characters: The narrow, arcuate mandible with three spiniform teeth; the convex, coarsely faceted eye, situated near the base of the mandible; the prominent frontal lobe; the usually anteriorly divergent lateral borders of the head; the black body with light brown appendages; and a range in length of 3.25 to 4.75 mm. As Weber (Bol. Ent. Venezolana 1:67, 1942) has so aptly stated, "The differences between the species lie chiefly in the proportions of the teeth, width of head compared with its length, convexity of the pronotum and mesonotum, angularity or lack of angularity between the epinotal base and declivous surfaces, shape of the petiolar node and development of striation or punctation. The differences are perfectly distinct yet no species varies so much that it might be placed in another genus, for there is none near it."

Since most of the species have been described very recently and there are no records of them in the common reference works including Dalla Torre's Catalogue Hymenopterorum and Wytzman's Genera Insectorum, most of the important bibliographic citations are given below.

*T. mutilatus* Mayr, 1887, Verh. Zool.-Bot. Gesell. Wien 37:531; Emery, 1894, Berlin. Ent. Ztschr. 39:380, fig.; Emery, 1911, Genera Insectorum, fasc. 118, p. 49, pl. 2, figs. 5, 5b; Weber, 1939, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 32:98; Weber, 1942, Bol. Ent. Venezolana 1: 67, 68.

*T. ferox* Mann, 1922, Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus. 61:3; fig. 1; Weber, 1939, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 32; 98; Weber, 1942, Bol. Ent. Venezolana 1: 67, 68,