

The colour varies considerably in the individuals of a single colony. Many specimens are entirely black, with the exception of mandibles, front of face, antennae and anterior legs. Others have thorax, petiole and anterior half of postpetiole entirely red or variously marked with red. The extent of yellow area on front of face also varies slightly. In some examples this does not pass anterior margin of eyes, whilst in others it extends well beyond posterior margin. Although the colour varies considerably, the sculpture, pilosity and pubescence are constant. The same colour varieties occur in all colonies obtained from each state.

This species is one of the most confused in the genus. Judging from the works of other Myrmecologists it had not been seen since Lowne recorded it from Sydney. There is little doubt as to the form taken by Lowne, as he appears to have written his paper with the assistance of Smith. He records *M. picta* immediately preceding the description of *M. urens*, a species which has apparently been mistaken for *M. picta* by Mayr, Forel and Emery. In order to be certain of this, and of Smith's other species of the genus, specimens were forwarded to my friend Mr. W. C. Crawley, who compared them with the types in the British Museum. In addition to sending notes, Mr. Crawley made drawings of the various types. A comparison with these shows clearly that the species regarded by both Mayr and Forel as *M. picta* is really that described by Lowne as *M. urens*. Forel records *picta* from Fremantle and added two varieties from that locality. The species found at Fremantle is not *picta*, and the two varieties described do not belong to this species.

The confusion undoubtedly arises from Smith's rather poor descriptions in 1858, but he certainly states clearly that the front of the face is yellow, none of the others has a yellow face. In 1865 Lowne recorded *picta* from Sydney and on the same page described *urens* which superficially resembles *picta*, but actually is not connected with it. In 1866 Mayr described *pumilio* from Queensland, and later (1876) lumped all together as one variable species. From his remarks it is evident that he never saw *picta* and had confused *urens* with *pumilio*. Specimens of *pumilio* in the National Museum collections, received from the Godeffroy Museum in 1888, are the true *pumilio*, from Rockhampton, Queensland. The synonymy of this confused group is as follows :—

MYRMECIA (PROMYRMECIA) PICTA Smith :

Myrmecia picta Smith, Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. vi, p. 146, 1858, ♀ ♀ ;
Lowne, The Entomologist, Lond. ii, p. 336, 1865, ♀ ; Mayr, Jour.
Mus. Godeffroy, xii, p. 94, 1876, ♀ ; Emery, Gen. Ins., Fasc. 118,
p. 20, 1911, ♀ ♀ .