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The Rediscovery of *Leptothorax silvestrii* (Santschi) (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)¹

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In 1909 Santschi described an ant, said to have been taken in Tucson, Arizona, as *Tetramorium silvestrii*. Nothing in Santschi's description indicates that *silvestrii* is actually a member of the genus *Leptothorax*, hence the writer believes that when Emery transferred *silvestrii* to *Leptothorax* in 1922, he must have done so on the basis of material sent him by Santschi. But since Emery did not explain how he was able to make this transfer, the generic reallocation was factually unsupported. No additional material of *silvestrii* was taken for more than a quarter of a century after Emery's shift, and during that period three courses were open to myrmecologists in the case of *silvestrii*. It could be treated as a *Tetramorium* on the basis of Santschi's description; it could be considered as a *Leptothorax* on the basis of Emery's transfer; or it could be regarded as a species of doubtful generic affinity. In recent years this unsatisfactory situation has been eliminated by the discovery of additional specimens of *silvestrii*. These specimens prove that Emery was correct in treating *silvestrii* as a member of the genus *Leptothorax*. Indeed, about the only feature which might suggest a relationship to *Tetramorium* is the rectangular node of the petiole. The clypeus is typically that of *Leptothorax*, and it is hard to understand how Santschi could have supposed that *silvestrii* belongs to *Tetramorium*.

As far as the writer has been able to ascertain, the first myrmecologist to discover additional specimens of *silvestrii* was L. F. Byars. About 1949 Byars took a single nest of this insect at Ruby, Arizona, a mining camp a few miles north of the border in Santa Cruz County. Specimens from this nest were sent to M. R. Smith for identification. Smith correctly considered that these specimens were the lost *silvestrii*, but to

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