

NEW SYNONYMY AND A NEW NAME IN THE ANT GENUS  
*POLYRHACHIS* F. SMITH (HYM., FORMICIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION

Recent study of the types of some nominal species created by F. Smith, Donisthorpe and others in the genus *Polyrhachis* has brought to light a number of previously unsuspected synonyms and has allowed the unravelling of a number of tangles in the species-level nomenclature of the genus.

*Polyrhachis* is an extremely large genus, the second largest in the family Formicidae, and contains on recent count some 855 specific and infraspecific names. A study by the present author on the genus in the Ethiopian Region showed that less than 50 per cent of the names represented valid species and if this figure applies to the remainder of the genus then there will be about 400 distinct species of *Polyrhachis* in the Old World tropics and subtropics.

The present paper is intended as the first of a series in which new synonymy is established and which will pave the way towards revisionary studies of species group or larger units within this huge genus. The new synonyms recorded in this contribution are listed below and the museums in which types are deposited are abbreviated as follows:

BMNH.—British Museum, Natural History, London.

MHN, Geneva.—Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva.

NM, Vienna.—Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna.

UM, Oxford.—University Museum, Oxford.

LIST OF NEW SYNONYMY

<i>derecyna</i> F. Smith	<i>inermis</i> F. Smith
= <i>taurus</i> Donisthorpe	= <i>bryanti</i> Donisthorpe
<i>dives</i> F. Smith	= <i>hosei</i> Donisthorpe
= <i>mutiliac</i> F. Smith	<i>ithona</i> F. Smith
= <i>dives</i> var. <i>eulides</i> Forel	= <i>andromache</i> Roger
<i>gab</i> Forel	= <i>chaonia</i> F. Smith
= <i>gab</i> var. <i>tripellis</i> Forel	<i>lacteipennis</i> F. Smith
= <i>crawleyella</i> Santschi	= <i>simplex</i> Mayr
<i>gracilior</i> Forel	<i>olena</i> F. Smith
= <i>weberi</i> Donisthorpe	= <i>curvatus</i> F. Smith
<i>hector</i> F. Smith	<i>rufipes</i> F. Smith
= <i>abdominalis</i> F. Smith	= <i>exasperatus</i> F. Smith
= <i>mutatus</i> F. Smith	= <i>phipsoni</i> Forel
= <i>malignus</i> F. Smith	= <i>exasperata</i> var. <i>oblisa</i> Forel
<i>hostilis</i> F. Smith	<i>rufofemorata</i> S. Smith
= <i>hostilis</i> var. <i>intricata</i> Forel	= <i>merops</i> F. Smith
= <i>hostilis</i> ssp. <i>hebes</i> Donisthorpe	<i>sacvissima</i> F. Smith
<i>illaudata</i> Walker	= <i>acantha</i> F. Smith
= <i>latispinosa</i> Donisthorpe	= <i>acasta</i> F. Smith
= <i>duodentata</i> Donisthorpe	<i>zopyra</i> F. Smith
	= <i>moorei</i> Donisthorpe