

Polyrhachis hostilis F. Smith

Polyrhachis hostilis F. Smith, 1858b: 139. Holotype worker. INDONESIA: Aru Islands (*A. R. Wallace*) (UM, Oxford) [examined].

Polyrhachis hirsuta Emery, 1911: 532. **Nomen nudum** [junior homonym of *hirsuta* Mayr, 1876].

Polyrhachis hostilis var. *hirsuta* Viehmeyer, 1913: 58. Holotype worker. NEW GUINEA: Cyclone. [Description of *hirsuta* Emery] **nom. preocc.** [junior homonym of *hirsuta* Mayr, 1876].

[*Polyrhachis hostilis* var. *hirsutula* Emery sensu Santschi, 1916: 243. improper procedure—see below].

Polyrhachis hostilis var. *intricata* Forel, 1917: 727 [replacement name for *hirsuta* Viehmeyer]. **Syn. n.**

Polyrhachis (*Chariomyrma*) *hostilis* subsp. *hebes* Donisthorpe, 1941a: 62. Holotype and paratype workers. NEW GUINEA: Japan Island, Mt. Baduri, 1000 ft. viii.1938 (*L. E. Cheesman*) (BMNH) [examined]. **Syn. n.**

At its inception the name *hirsuta* Emery, besides being a **nomen nudum** was also a preoccupied name as *hirsuta* Mayr had been previously described in 1876. Viehmeyer's (1913) description of var. *hirsuta* appears to be based on Emery's original specimen, and Forel's var. *intricata* was proposed as a substitute name for this form.

Santschi (1916) gave *hostilis* var. *hirsutula* Emery as a senior synonym of *hirsuta* Viehmeyer, but in fact the name *hirsutula* was originally applied by Emery to a variety of *continua* Emery, a very different species. Santschi does not give any reason for his transference of var. *hirsutula* from *continua* to the unrelated *hostilis*, nor for his assumption that *hirsutula* was a senior synonym of *hirsuta*, and one must assume a mistake on his part.

Donisthorpe separated his subspecies *hebes* principally on the characters of the tooth at the base of the scape being blunter and more rounded; the pronotum being not nearly so transverse as in *hostilis*, and the pronotal teeth being shorter than in *hostilis*. The first of these characters shows some slight variation between *hostilis* specimens in the BMNH and the reduction of the tooth in *hebes* is not excessive. The statement that the pronotum is not as strongly transverse in *hebes* is incorrect as the pronotal width (PW) of the holotype and paratype are 2.10 and 2.36 mm respectively, whilst the PW of a type-compared *hostilis* worker is 2.34 mm, and that of another specimen from Aru Is. is 2.22 mm.

The length of the pronotal teeth is quite variable in the species and in fact in the holotype of *hebes* the tooth on the right pronotal corner is better developed than that on the left whilst in the paratype the teeth are scarcely more than slightly prominent angles.

Other differences given by Donisthorpe such as abundance of hairs and sculptural variations are trivial in the extreme and only serve to emphasise the variation of individuals within the species.

Polyrhachis hungi **nom. n.**

Polyrhachis (*Hedomyrma*) *nitens* Donisthorpe, 1944: 65. Holotype worker. NEW GUINEA: Waigio Island, Camp Nok, 2500 ft. v. 1938 (*L. F. Cheesman*) (BMNH). **Nom. preocc.** [junior homonym of *Polyrhachis* (*Chariomyrma*) *nitens* Donisthorpe, 1943b: 464].

As Donisthorpe described two very different species as *nitens* a replacement name is necessary for the later name. A number of