

homonyms still exist in the genus *Polyrhachis*, but they are all of forms described as varieties or subspecies. As such forms are usually synonymous with the species of which they are supposed to be variants the proposal of replacement names seems unnecessary. If however such forms are found to be distinct species replacement names can easily be decided by the revisor.

Polyrhachis illaudata Walker

Polyrhachis illaudatus Walker, 1859: 373. Holotype worker (not male). SRI LANKA. (BMNH) [examined].

Polyrhachis mayri Roger, 1863: 7, 45. [new species for *P. relucens* (Latreille) sensu Mayr, 1862: 685]. SRI LANKA. (Dohrn). Synonymy by Donisthorpe, 1932: 576.

Polyrhachis (Myrma) latispinosa Donisthorpe, 1942a: 460 pl. 2 fig. 1. Holotype female. INDIA: Travancore, Tenmalai, 500–800 ft. 11–17.x.1938 (BMNH) [examined].

Syn. n.

Polyrhachis (Myrma) duodentata Donisthorpe, 1942a: 461 pl. 2 fig. 2. Holotype female. INDIA: Malabar, Nadungayam, 200 ft. 16–22.ix.1938 (BMNH) [examined].

Syn. n.

Walker's original description was supposedly of a male, but his specimen was actually a worker, as pointed out by Donisthorpe (1932) and as is obvious from the original description where Walker states that this 'male' is apterous. The name *mayri* was given by Roger (1863) to a number of specimens from Ceylon described by Mayr (1862) as being *relucens*, but which were actually of a different species. *P. mayri* was thus the only known name of this quite common species until Donisthorpe (1932) rediscovered Walker's types and found *illaudata* to be a senior synonym. Ten years later Donisthorpe (1942a) founded two species, *latispinosa* and *duodentata*, on two females from southern India which were separable from each other only on the structure of the median dorsal prominence of the petiole and were separable from *illaudata* only by the supposed absence of such a prominence in this species. However, a number of females captured in southern India show a low prominence in the middle of the dorsal petiolar margin and in one case there is a distinct triangular tooth in this position, which is somewhat truncated apically. Thus the presence or absence of such a prominence and its degree of development is seen to be variable in otherwise similar specimens, and *latispinosa* and *duodentata* fall as synonyms of *illaudata*.

Polyrhachis inermis F. Smith

Polyrhachis inermis F. Smith, 1858a: 68 pl. 4 figs. 25, 26. Holotype worker. SULAWESI (BMNH) [examined].

Polyrhachis (Myrma) bryanti Donisthorpe, 1942b: 707. Holotype and paratype workers. BORNEO: Sarawak, Mt. Matang, 1.xi.1914 (G. F. Bryant) (BMNH) [examined]. **Syn. n.**

Polyrhachis (Myrma) hosei Donisthorpe, 1942b: 708. Holotype and paratype workers. BORNEO: Santubong, i.1907 (J. Hose) (BMNH) [examined]. **Syn. n.**

In the above publication Donisthorpe stated that, 'some myrmecologists would possibly treat all these ants [of the *inermis* group] as subspecies of one of the older species', but said that he preferred to regard them as separate. I have examined the types of the six named species in this group (not counting infraspecific forms) and find that they resolve into three reasonably distinct species, namely *inermis*,