

with the synonyms quoted above, *vindex* F. Smith with *orsylla* F. Smith as a synonym, and *carbonaria* F. Smith.

Wheeler (1919: 125) redescribed *vindex* and commented that the species was 'very close to Smith's *inermis* and *orsyllus*, especially the latter'. Later Wheeler (1924: 254) gave *orsylla* as a synonym of *vindex* and this synonymy is now confirmed.

Donisthorpe's species *bryanti* and *hosei* are inseparable from *inermis* and were originally differentiated from it only on trivial and intrinsically variable characters of spine lengths and thicknesses.

### *Polyrhachis ithona* F. Smith

*Polyrhachis hector* F. Smith, 1858b: 142. Holotype worker. INDONESIA: Aru Islands (*A. R. Wallace*) (UM, Oxford) [examined]. **Nom. preocc.** [junior homonym of *hector* F. Smith, 1857].

*Polyrhachis andromache* Roger, 1863: 8, 46 [replacement name]. **Syn. n.**

*Polyrhachis ithonus* F. Smith, 1860b: 99 pl. 1 fig. 18. Syntype worker, female. INDONESIA: Batjan Island (*A. R. Wallace*) (UM, Oxford) [examined]. **Valid name.**

*Polyrhachis chaonia* F. Smith, 1861: 42 pl. 1 fig. 18. Holotype female. INDONESIA: Halmahera (=Gilolo) Island (*A. R. Wallace*) (UM, Oxford) [examined]. **Syn. n.**

Very closely related to *relucens* (Latreille), but separable by the lack of short, erect hairs on the leading edge of the scape and the dorsal surfaces of the posterior tibiae. In *relucens* these are always present. The two females described as *ithona* and *chaonia* are very similar, differing principally in the development of the dorsal petiolar spines which in the former are lower, broader and blunter than in the latter. The holotype of *hector* is quite a small individual, but larger specimens are present in the BMNH collection which link the relatively large *ithona* queen to the smaller *hector* worker.

### *Polyrhachis lacteipennis* F. Smith

*Polyrhachis lacteipennis* F. Smith, 1858a: 60 pl. 4 fig. 40. Holotype female. NORTHERN INDIA (BMNH) [examined].

*Polyrhachis simplex* Mayr, 1862: 682. Holotype female. INDIA: Kashmir (probably in NM, Vienna). **Syn. n.**

*Polyrhachis spiniger* Mayr, 1878: 653. Syntype worker, male. INDIA (*Rothney*). [The synonymy *simplex* = *spiniger* by Forel, 1893: 36.]

Comparison of the type of *lacteipennis* with several queen-containing series of the common Middle-Eastern and Indian *simplex* shows that this well known name must fall as a synonym of *lacteipennis*.

### *Polyrhachis olenae* F. Smith

*Polyrhachis olenus* F. Smith, 1861: 39 pl. 1 fig. 8. Holotype worker. SULAWESI: Tondano (*A. R. Wallace*) (UM, Oxford) [examined].

*Polyrhachis eurytus* F. Smith, 1861: 43 pl. 1 fig. 24. Holotype female. SULAWESI: Tondano (*A. R. Wallace*) (UM, Oxford) [examined]. **Syn. n.**

After careful examination of the types of these two forms I am convinced that *euryta* is in fact the female of *olena*.

Neither the specimen labelled as type of *euryta* nor the original description of F. Smith matches the figure of the petiole of this species appended to the original description (fig. 24, not fig. 23 as stated in the text. The corrective note is given by Smith on page 66). According to Smith the petiole of *euryta* is 'widely emarginate above and subdentate at the angles.' This fits the specimen labelled as type, but the figure