

catalogue of world Myrmicinae, retained *ceylonica* and its varieties, and a few other species which were then thought to be related, in *Atopula*. By this time *Atopula* had become very much a catch-all genus for oddities peripheral to several different genus-groups.

To complicate this already confused situation still further, it is now apparent that two male-based species described in different subfamilies, one in *Cerapachys* (Ponerinae) and the other in *Tetraponera* (Pseudomyrmecinae), are really members of *Paratopula* (Myrmicinae).

The table below lists all the previously described species-level names that have been associated with the genus-level name *Atopula* (now a junior synonym of *Tetramorium*), or are now associated with *Paratopula*. Columns one and two show the original authors and generic combinations of each taxon. The third column shows any subsequent changes in generic combination prior to the presently accepted placement, and the authorities for the changes. The fourth column indicates the presently accepted generic combination of the species-level name.

Thus *Paratopula* contains six nominal forms derived from earlier descriptive efforts, two of which (*oculata* and *andamanensis*) are newly recognized as belonging to the genus in this paper. Of these six names *taylori* is now considered to be a synonym of *ceylonica*, and *sumatrensis* is a nomen dubium, the holotype female (and only known specimen) having been lost and the original description being too vague for accurate identification. The remaining four, *andamanensis*, *ceylonica*, *longispina* and *oculata*, are considered to be valid species though only *ceylonica* is certainly known from more than one caste. *P. longispina* was described from a single female and remains known only from this caste. The single known specimen of *andamanensis* is a male. It has never been collected again and possibly conspecific females or workers remain undetected. *P. oculata* was described from a male; a possibly conspecific female is discussed below.

Apart from these, four new *Paratopula* species are described here, based on workers. Tentative associations of these with females are proposed where possible, relying on characters apparently consistent between the two castes, and a number of as yet unassociated females and males are discussed.

Until now the concept of a genus *Paratopula* has been based on workers and females. To the present no males have been described as belonging here, those earlier described males which are now included in the genus having originally been misplaced in genera as widely separated as *Cerapachys* and *Tetraponera*. A single male specimen which has somehow come to be included in the type-series of *taylori* (MHN), and is not mentioned in the original description, is a *Pheidole* and has no type-status. It was apparently wrongly added to the type-series some time later but never discussed in print. The males and workers referred to by Wheeler (1919) as *sumatrensis* cannot now be found in the MCZ collection and must be presumed lost.