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## ON THE IDENTITY OF ADLERZIA FOREL

(Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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It would be difficult to find a subfamily of insects in which generic placement of a given specimen is as difficult as in the Myrmicinae. The standard keys of Emery and Wheeler, both published in 1922, are virtually useless in determining many genera even when in the hands of a myrmecologist with long experience. This unhappy situation reflects the chaotic state of myrmicine classification even as it stood in 1922. In that year, so many genera were wrongly defined, synonymous with others, or hopelessly heterogeneous in composition that one is astonished that the aforementioned authors had the courage to attempt keys to the world genera without first radically altering the classification. Of course, it must be said that such alteration might well consume a lifetime without particularly satisfactory results achieved in the end, and evidently the opinion then was that any key, however imperfect, was better than none. After a quarter century of description from various quarters, one may well doubt the wisdom of this opinion.

Authors since 1922 have been all too content to accept the keys, which are similar and therefore seem to support each other, as practically the only basis for generic identification. In this way, a great crop of generic synonyms has arisen during the last 25 years or so, and, what is worse, very many species have been steered through the dichotomies, missed a turn, and ended as new species in the wrong genus. The phylogeny and limits of the genera have now become so obscure that the most accomplished myrmecographer finds many generic assignments impossible or very highly uncertain.

In the earlier days, up to about 1900, it was possible for a specialist to have a fair idea of the species of the entire family and their proper generic assignments. However, the earlier workers have sown the seeds of the chaos now prevailing, for, knowing the species and genera by habitus more than by the characters they themselves had used in definition, they too often added species