

without reference to the crucial characters used to delimit the genera. Most of the work was hasty in the extreme, with species thrown chock-a-block into the handiest receptacle or else arbitrarily made the type of a new genus or subgenus.

The subgenus particularly has been a refuge for the uncertain specialist confronted with inadequate material, and the myrmecological world is only now awakening to the fact that most of the subgenera are really either indefensible as such or else are good genera. In the latter category belong many familiar names among ants, formerly placed as subgenera in large genera like *Atta*, *Dorylus*, *Eciton*, *Dolichoderus*, *Polyrhachis*, *Lasius*, *Strumigenys*, *Solenopsis*, *Monomorium* and many others. The subgenus will continue to have its function for a long while yet, but the time has come to embrace and expand the critical study of subgenera begun by Borgmeier, Creighton, and others.

As a small contribution to the tremendous job which lies before us, of unscrambling the genera of the Myrmicinae, and as a miniature illustration of the self-propagating confusion of ant taxonomy as it is today, I should like to bring to the reader's attention the case of the ant going under the name *Monomorium* (*Adlerzia*) *froggatti* Forel.

Forel proposed the new subgenus *Adlerzia* and assigned it to *Monomorium* on the basis of a single small worker ant (*froggatti*) described as new at the same time in Rev. Suisse Zool., X, pp. 445-447 (1902). There it has remained buried without again being reported from its homeland in southeastern Australia.

In 1950, while passing through Sydney on my way north to Queensland, I spent a day collecting in the woods along the golf links at Pymble, an outer suburb of Sydney I had heard of through Father McAreavey of Melbourne. Among other ants taken was one series, found in a nest of *Camponotus consobrinus* (Erichson) under a large stone, of small tawny ants with highly dimorphic workers. These ants seen in the field fitted my rather sketchy idea of *Machomyrma* Forel as remembered from the literature and specimens in the Wheeler Collection casually examined in past years. I then put the specimens in alcohol and forgot them.

Upon my return home, I mounted these and several hundred other specimens obtained during my trip, and during the process of mounting, one of the minor workers of my "*Machomyrma*" somehow got placed on a point by itself, without an accompanying