

rium. Rather, it seems to go into the tribe Pheidolini, and I here place it provisionally as a distinct genus. The new arrangement may be schematized as follows:

#### MACHOMYRMA Forel

Genotype: *Liomyrmex* (*Muchomyrma*) *dispar* Forel, 1895, Monobasic.

#### ADLERZIA Forel (NEW STATUS; TRIBAL TRANSFER)

Genotype: *Monomorium* (*Adlerzia*) *froggatti* Forel, 1902, Monobasic.

Additional species: *Adlerzia silvestrii* (Emery), 1914.

For full references and generic characteristics, see Emery, 1922, *Genera Insectorum*, Fascicule 174, pp. 76-77 (*Machomyrma*) and pp. 168, 182 (*Adlerzia*).

I have dwelt at some length on this small taxonomic puzzle because it points up so starkly the deficiencies in the keys and in the basic classification of the ants. It is far from being an isolated example; many tangles of much greater scope and difficulty exist, becoming ever aggravated by the addition of new species year by year.

In our present-day studies of the group, there is far too much isolated description of one or a few species or subspecies scattered through many genera of ants, and far too little work of a broad revisionary nature. Creighton, Borgmeier and a few others have shown the way out of the tangle, but the majority of myrmecologists have been slow to follow. Our first and most urgent task is the reduction of the synonymy at the species- and subspecies-levels, for this synonymy has virtually stifled intelligent revision of the larger and more difficult groups under the sheer weight of numbers of presently-unchallenged and insufficiently identified names. Probably as much as 25 to 50 per cent of the names in some genera are unrecognized synonyms; this percentage, when applied to a genus like *Camponotus*, with more than 1,000 current names, is enough to discourage any reviser from taking a world approach. I find it a good rule to establish at least one clearcut synonymy for each new name I propose. Unfortunately, the establishment of one certain synonym almost invariably occupies far more time than did the original description of the synonym. New synonymy should be clearly labelled as such and provided with the original references, so that cataloguers can easily detect and disseminate it as they would newly-described species. A system which makes new synonymy bear a greater burden of proof and investigative effort than