

variation beyond single nest series or single specimens, the inevitably confusing results of such procedure will have to be dealt with by some later resident Australian worker. The doubt surrounding Clark's species partly explains the difficulties in his keys to *Myrmecia* species, and at the same time makes revision of these keys impossible. In the revisionary matter to follow, I shall deal chiefly with some of the more obvious species, concerning which the mere statement of trailing synonymy will help to right the confusion; for fuller descriptive and synonymic data, the interested reader is referred with some reservations to Clark's monograph of the Myrmeciinae (1952). Most of the species I shall treat below are discussed, figured and characterized more fully, though with many inaccuracies, in Clark's volume, where they may be traced through the index beginning on page 228; I shall include in my own synonymies only the most essential of these references.

MYRMECIA MANDIBULARIS Fred. Smith

Myrmecia mandibularis Fred. Smith, 1858, Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6: 145, worker. Crawley, 1926, p. 385, fig. 10.

Myrmecia (Promyrmecia) fulvipes coelatinoda Wheeler, 1933, Colony-founding among ants, Harvard, p. 72, worker. NEW SYNONYMY.

Promyrmecia laevinodis Clark, 1943, Mem. Nat. Mus., Melbourne, 13: 139, pl. 17, figs. 94-95, worker, female. NEW SYNONYMY.

The type of Wheeler's subspecies *coelatinoda* cannot now be found, but his description strongly suggests that it was merely an old, faded or originally teneral specimen of *mandibularis* that had suffered loss of much of its pubescence through age and handling.

M. laevinodis is supposed to differ from *mandibularis* in having an essentially non-rugose postpetiolar disc, but extensive series in the Museum of Comparative Zoology show complete intergradation in this respect. In series of this form from Margaret River and Pemberton, Western Australia, the discs vary from sharply longitudinally rugose to smoothly and very finely reticulate, without suggestion of rugation or large punctures; some of these series appear from the mounting to be unidual, and are certainly sympatric. While certain populations I have observed personally appear to be purely smooth-postpetiolate (western Kangaroo Island), others from the Grampians Ranges were highly variable and contained a large proportion of undoubted intergrades. The gastric pubescence varies from red-orange to bright yellow-