

type series of *M. froggatti*, ex Manilla, New South Wales (W. W. Froggatt) and the unique types of subsp. *taylori*, ex Roma District, Queensland (F. H. Taylor) and subsp. *sericata*, ex Wagga Wagga, New South Wales (W. W. Froggatt). The *M. froggatti* specimen has been badly rubbed, thereby lacking most of the gastric pubescence and appearing somewhat more shining than the two sub-species. Otherwise, the differences are rather trivial — scarcely more than what one would expect in the way of variation among members of single nest series in this complex. While even this slight variation might, allopatry considered, be indicative of valid geographical races, I feel that in this case the burden of proof must be shifted to anyone who wants to consider them as such. Certainly, the differences do not look half so impressive when the actual specimens are compared as they do in Wheeler's descriptions. Clark's species *Promyrmecia eupocila*, *P. greavesi* and *P. excavata* appear to me, from Clark's characterizations, to be scarcely distinguishable from *M. froggatti*. Quite possibly they are synonyms.

#### MYRMECIA MAURA MAURA Wheeler New status

*Myrmecia* (*Promyrmecia*) *aberrans* subsp. *maura* Wheeler, 1933, Colony-founding among Ants, Harvard, p. 51.  
*Promyrmecia maura* Clark, 1952, Formic. Australia, Melbourne, 1: 132-134, figs. 100, 101, worker, female; see for further synonymy.

*M. maura* has always been considered rather distinct because it is the only known all-black member of its group. Close inspection of the type series in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, however, reveals that some of these specimens show a feeble hint of reddish discoloration on the sides of the head and on the pronotum. Since the types are from Bathurst, New South Wales, and since other *m. maura* records are cited by Clark from Western Slope and Southern Tableland localities in New South Wales, but not from the Northern Tablelands, it appears at present as though *m. maura* and the forms with much bright red on head and alitrunk may be allopatrically and sub-specifically separated. The graded series of reddened forms described by Wheeler under the names *formosa* and *haematosticta* come from Uralla on the Northern Tableland. Possibly the main range of the red-and-black form extends into Queensland, with Uralla at one edge of the intergrade zone. If further collection bears this out, the name of the red-and-black form should be *M. maura formosa*, and the name