

haematosticta will sink as applying to the intergrades. On the other hand, it is entirely possible that the red-and-black forms are merely non-geographical variants appearing at intervals through the *maura* range, in which case the names *formosa* and *haematosticta* will both sink as synonyms. I prefer for the moment to consider the situation as a probable case of polytypy in the species *maura*.

Clark's specific separation, based on types of the three forms sent him in 1947, fails to take into account the great variation in color of the Uralla series. Since this variation bridges the *maura-formosa* differences almost perfectly, I cannot accept Clark's artificial three-way split. The synonymy of *M. maura formosa* follows.

MYRMECIA MAURA FORMOSA Wheeler New status

Myrmecia (*Promyrmecia*) *aberrans* subsp. *formosa* Wheeler, 1933, Colony-founding among Ants, Harvard, p. 52, fig. 19, worker.

Myrmecia (*Promyrmecia*) *aberrans* subsp. *haematosticta* Wheeler, 1933, *Ibid.*, p. 51, worker. Intergrade, *maura maura* × *maura formosa*, NEW SYNONYMY.

Promyrmecia haematosticta Clark, 1952, Formic. Australia, Melbourne, 1: 130, fig. 98, worker.

Promyrmecia formosa Clark, 1952, *Ibid.*, p. 131, fig. 99, worker.

Wheeler's series from Uralla in the Museum of Comparative Zoology consist of a half-dozen *formosa* cotypes and (at present) a single cotype of *haematosticta*; all of these specimens are dated November 26. The *formosa* series includes variations leading up to *haematosticta*, which latter is only slightly more extreme than the darkest *formosa* worker.

MYRMECIA NOBILIS (Clark) New combination

Promyrmecia nobilis Clark, 1943, Mem. Nat. Mus., Melbourne, 13: 97, pl. 12, figs. 2-4, all castes; see Clark, 1952, p. 124 for further synonymy.

While the present material seems to indicate that *M. froggatti*, *M. maura* and *M. nobilis* represent very closely related, but probably distinct species, I am by no means so sure of the distinctness of *M. nobilis* from *M. aberrans*. Without type material of *aberrans*, it is perhaps wise to accept tentatively Clark's judgement on these forms. I took *M. nobilis* at Lara, Victoria, on the savannah west of Melbourne, in a nest surmounted by a slender earthen spout about one cm. high.