

## MYRMECIA FULVIPES Roger

*Myrmecia fulvipes* Roger, 1861, Berl. ent. Zeitschr. 5: 36, worker.

*Promyrmecia fulvipes* Clark, 1952, Formic. Australia, Melbourne, 1: 165-167, figs. 133-135, all castes; see for further synonymy.

*Myrmecia (Pristomyrmecia) piliventris* var. *femorata* Santschi, 1928, Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sci. Nat. 56: 466, worker. NEW SYNONYMY.

*Myrmecia (Promyrmecia) fulvipes* subsp. *barbata* Wheeler, 1933, Colony-founding among Ants, Harvard, p. 71. NEW SYNONYMY.

(Cf. Clark assignments and additional synonymy for these forms in his 1952 revision, pp. 158-159, 162-167.)

This species may be recognized by means of its greenish-golden gastric pubescence and the contrasting color of the legs against the black of the body; the femora and usually most of the rest of the legs are yellowish-red, with varying areas of infuscation. Clark's reasons for assigning var. *femorata* and subsp. *barbata* to *piliventris* instead of to *fulvipes* are enigmatic, especially since Wheeler had correctly stated their close relationship to *fulvipes* in 1933. I can think of no reason for Clark's action other than that he merely followed Santschi's original thoughtless assignment of *femorata* to *piliventris*. Obviously, Santschi never took *fulvipes* into account in describing his variety, or he would have realized that the latter was *fulvipes* to begin with. *M. piliventris* is, in my view, a completely distinct species, as proved by the absence of intergrades to *M. fulvipes* despite the slightly variable extent of infuscation of the tibiae in the latter. *M. fulvipes* is an eastern coastal species with a range extending into the higher mountain forests of the southeastern regions and Tasmania, west at least into the Grampians Ranges of western Victoria; it prefers a relatively moist, cool climate. *M. piliventris* prefers to nest in dry, open woodlands or even on open heath, and hence it is more common in the western and Tablelands regions of New South Wales and in northern and western Victoria and southern South Australia. The record of *M. fulvipes* cited by Clark from Murray Bridge, South Australia, is rather unusual and should be checked, although *M. fulvipes* may occur in the moister Lofty Ranges of South Australia.

Wheeler's subsp. *barbata*, the types of which have recently been found among the Wheeler miscellany, is a large, slightly more hairy form occurring with and intergrading to the average-sized form in the wet mountain forests of New South Wales; the present evidence does not indicate that nomenclatorial distinction for this local variant should be maintained. *Myrmecia fulviculis* Forel is a *fulvipes*-like