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Michener and LaBerge — Bombus Nest

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NEW SYNONYMY OF AN AUSTRALIAN IRIDOMYRMEX (HY-MENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE).—Iridomyrmex biconvexus Santschi, 1928, Bull. Soc. Vaud Sci. Nat., 56: 471, worker (Type loc.: Ringwood, Victoria. Syntypes in Naturh. Mus., Basel; Mus. Comp. Zool.) proves to be the senior synonym of Iridomyrmex foetans Clark, 1929, Vict. Naturalist, Melbourne, 46: 122, pl. 1, figs. 4, 4a, worker (Type loc.: Cann River, Victoria. Syntypes in Nat. Mus. Vict., Melbourne; Mus. Comp. Zool.) as here noticed for the first time. I have compared syntypes directly, and they are obviously conspecific. The promesonotal suture is mobile, affecting the alitruncal profile. I have found this species abundant in the Dandenongs and Warburton Ranges, Victoria, in medium to wet sclerophyll forest, particularly in those parts dominated by Eucalyptus regnans, although its also occurs down to sea level near Melbourne. Clark also found it common on the Otway Peninsula. In wet E. regnans-treefern gullies of the Warburton Range, this is the dominant ant species up to at least 3,000 feet. In the snow gum-grass areas above this, it is replaced by a similar Iridomyrmex identical with types of I. emeryi Crawley, but perhaps synonymous with some older species name. All ant names mentioned here are perhaps junior synonyms of older names obscurely attached. - W. L. Brown, Jr., Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.