

NOTES ON THE SYSTEMATICS AND DULOSIS OF SOME WESTERN  
SPECIES OF FORMICA, SUBGENUS RAPTIFORMICA  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

ROY R. SNELLING, *Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History,  
Los Angeles, California 90007*

ABSTRACT—*Formica parcipappa* Cole is placed in the synonymy of *F. curiosa* Creighton. The morphological variation, distribution and known habits of this species are discussed; *F. manni* Wheeler is recorded as a slave of this species in Oregon. *Formica bradleyi* Wheeler is noted to function as a slave to *F. puberula* Emery in Colorado. Brief comment is made on the status of *Raptiformica* as a subgenus.

Recent years have seen numerous changes proposed in the status of our western ants assigned by Creighton (1950) to the subgenus *Raptiformica* Forel. Wilson and Brown (1955) synonymized many of the specific and subspecific names; the subgeneric name itself they sank as a synonym of *Formica* L., s. str. A number of species formerly included in *Raptiformica* were also shown to be unrelated to those species which comprised *Raptiformica*, s. str. Gregg (1963) reinstated the subgenus as constituted by Creighton, but advanced little objective evidence for so doing. Finally Buren (1968) reinvestigated the entire problem and proposed a new arrangement of the names involved. This objective, and very thorough, study has embodied some concepts from the work of Wilson and Brown and some from Gregg.

The subgenus *Raptiformica* was reinstated to include ten species which are obviously closely allied to the type species of *Raptiformica*; several of these were resurrected from the synonymy proposed by Wilson and Brown and one new species was described. The species which Wilson and Brown had excluded were left in *Formica*, s. str. A revised key to the species of *Raptiformica* was provided and the synonymy and morphological characters of each species were discussed. Buren's effort seems the best answer yet proposed in this particularly vexatious group of ants. I believe, however, that he overlooked one case of synonymy, but merely because the names involved are known from very few specimens.

***Formica* (*Raptiformica*) *curiosa* Creighton**

*Formica curiosa* Creighton, 1935, Amer. Mus. Novit. 773: 5-8. ♀ ♀.

*Formica parcipappa* Cole, 1946, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 39:616-618. ♂. **New synonymy.**

*Formica* (*Raptiformica*) *curiosa*: Creighton, 1950, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 104: 464; Buren, 1968, Jour. Georgia Ent. Soc. 3: 32-33.

*Formica* (*Raptiformica*) *parcipappa*: Creighton, 1950, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 104: 467; Buren, 1968, Jour. Georgia Ent. Soc. 3: 33.