

*Formica curiosa*: Wilson and Brown, 1955, Psyche 62: 123 (in part).

*Formica parcipappa*: Wilson and Brown, 1955, Psyche 62: 125.

On June 10, 1967, collecting on an alkali flat at the western edge of the Harney Lake basin, 44.2 miles southwest of Burns, Harney County, Oregon, I had the good fortune to take a colony of a unicolorous reddish *Raptiformica* together with its host species. The host proved to be *Formica* (*F.*) *manni* Wheeler, an especially common species in that area. The identity of the dulotic species was not so easily attained, for in Creighton's key (1950) and in Buren's key (1968) some individuals ran to *F.* (*R.*) *parcipappa* Cole and others to *F.* (*R.*) *curiosa* Creighton, although the majority of specimens seemed to better fit the description of Cole's species, described from Nampa, Idaho. In both of these keys the separating character was the concolorous body of *F. parcipappa* versus the bicolored condition of *F. curiosa* in which the gaster is darker than the head and alitrunk.

Buren noted what seemed to be better features in his discussions of these species, especially in the shape of the petiole. That of *F. parcipappa* was said to be rather broadly fan-shaped when viewed from behind, and the crest with a sharp edge which has a distinct median notch. The worker of *F. curiosa* was noted to possess a narrowly fan-shaped petiole, its crest moderately sharp and without a median notch. Some of my specimens from Oregon have the petiole rather narrow, with its sides only moderately convergent toward the base, very similar to the condition seen in paratypes of *F. curiosa* which I have examined. In these specimens the crest, when viewed from behind, is usually gently and evenly convex from side to side, without a trace of a median notch. In a few specimens the crest is much the same, but with a slight sinuation in the middle. One specimen, which has the least fan-shaped petiole of those in my series, has a very distinct median notch. From the narrowly fan-shaped petiole without a notch (as in *F. curiosa*) my series runs the full gamut to the broader, notched petiolar condition typical of *F. parcipappa*. It should be pointed out that some of the broad petiole specimens also lack the median notch. I think it is safe to state that the petiolar difference noted by Buren is of no significance in separating *F. parcipappa* from *F. curiosa*.

According to Buren, also, the scapes of *F. parcipappa* were equal to or slightly longer than the maximum head length, while they are shorter than the head length of *F. curiosa*. The one paratype of *F. parcipappa* in my possession has the scape distinctly shorter than the length of the head, and this condition prevails among my Oregon specimens. In only a few are the scapes as long as the head length; none which I have examined for this character have longer scapes.