

This couplet really expresses the difference thought to separate the "lower" Ponerini, mostly large in size, from the "higher" members, which tend to be smaller (e.g., *Ponera*, *Cryptopone*). Generally speaking, the genera with smaller-sized species do tend to lose the lateral spurs of the middle and hind tibiae, while genera having larger-sized species normally retain the extra spur, although usually in a more or less reduced condition. The difficulty, of course, lies with distinguishing between the condition "two spurs" and "lateral spur rudimentary," especially when one finds that in most species the lateral spur is considerably smaller than its mate. Furthermore, the threshold at which a "vestigial spur" becomes just another apical seta of the tibia is unspecified along a gradual morphocline of species. In short, the lateral tibial spur, as an allometric character, cannot be used to split the Ponerini into two main groups, and in fact probably cannot even be used by itself as a diagnostic character at the generic level.

Other adult characters of value in classification still remain: the shape of the clypeus has been and still is an important generic character. The tarsal claws may be simple, or may have one or more teeth, or may even be pectinate, as in the case of most *Leptogenys* species. I consider the pectination of the claws, imperfect in some African species of the genus, to be insufficient as a tribal character in view of the several other strong characters shared by both adult and larval Ponerini and *Leptogenys*, and accordingly I am placing tribe Leptogenyini as an included synonym of Ponerini (**new synonymy**).

Another character of some importance is the presence of heavy, conical, spine-like setae on the extensor surfaces of the middle tibiae and tarsi. These structures, which appear to promote movement through soil or rotten wood by improving traction, are found in certain cryptobiotic genera (e. g., *Centromyrmex*, *Wadeura*, *Cryptopone*, *Promyopias*) as well as in a number of fossorial wasps (many pristocerine Bethyridae, most non-parasitic Scoliodea, for instance), all of which seek their prey underground or in other confined circumstances. Emery cited the presence of such spine-like, as well as merely bristle-like, setae as characteristic of *Euponera* subgenus *Trachymesopus*, which he named (in 1911) accordingly. The heterogeneity of *Trachymesopus* in this regard, as well as in other respects, made it a perfect catch-all for miscellaneous species of medium-to-small Ponerini from the very beginning, and it has continued in this role right down to the present. As a matter of fact,