

50: 248, female, male (in cop.). Type locality: San Bernardino, Paraguay. Type examined in Coll. Forel, Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva. New synonymy.

*Typhlomyrmex richardsi* Donisthorpe, 1939, Ent. mon. Mag., 75: 161, male.

TL: Mazaruni Clearing, British Guiana. Type series examined in British Museum (Natural History). New synonymy.

This species is distinguished in all castes by means of the wide head; long, falcate apical mandibular tooth (Figs. 4, 5); and oblique basal borders of the mandibles, which fail to meet the clypeus when closed. The worker-female antennal club is prominent, as the name suggests, and the petiolar node is short. A single worker (taken at Bartica, British Guiana by H. O. Lang, together with winged females) has a head length, without mandibles, of 0.67 and a head width of 0.65 mm., which is within the size range of the smaller *T. rogenhoferi* workers.

The type series of *T. richardsi* consists of numerous males, accompanied on one card by a female specimen (the latter not mentioned by Donisthorpe). The differences cited among the synonymous species by Forel and Donisthorpe mainly concern mandibular form and the proportions of the antennal segments. On examining all the types and comparing them with digms from British Guiana, I was impressed by the similarity of the mandibles between members of the same caste from different series. The basal segments of the funiculus show noticeable variation in length among males, even in those on one card, and I do not think they make a good diagnostic character.

*T. clavicornis* is known from the above-mentioned widely separated localities in South America, ranging from Bolivia and Paraguay north to British Guiana. A female with forewings missing, probably fully alate when captured, comes from the Floresta di Tijuca, near Rio de Janeiro, February 1960, C. A. Campos Seabra leg. The *T. richardsi* types were a part of a large series (apparently nearly all males) taken from a nest of the social vespid *Polybia bistrriata*.

#### *Typhlomyrmex major*, new status

*Typhlomyrmex pusillus* st. *major* Santschi, 1923, Rev. Suisse Zool., 30: 246, worker. Type locality: Blumenau, Santa Catarina, Brazil. Location of type unknown (not in Santschi Collection).

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#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE 5

Figures 1-6, *Typhlomyrmex* spp. Fig. 1, *T. pusillus* worker from El Rey, Salta, Argentina, lateral view of body. Fig. 2, Same, head in full-face view. Fig. 3, *T. rogenhoferi*, large worker, lateral view of petiole. Fig. 4, *T. clavicornis*, mandible of gyne from British Guiana, hairs omitted. Fig. 5, *T. clavicornis* from British Guiana, full-face view of male head. Fig. 6, *T. prolatus* sp. nov., female holotype, anterodorsal view of right mandible. Drawings by Nancy Buffer, D. Alsop and the author.