

Studies on North American Ants. II. Myrmecina

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The myrmicine genus *Myrmecina* contains at least 25 described and undescribed species, most of which inhabit the Indo-Australian region. A few species form a close-knit complex of forms, widely distributed in the temperate parts of Eurasia and North America, that we may call the *graminicola* group. Brown (1949, 1951) presented revisionary notes on this group; insofar as these papers dealt with the North American representatives of the group, the main result was the synonymy of three "subspecies" or "varieties" of *M. americana* (*brevispinosa*, *texana*, *quadrispina*). The types of these forms match individual or nest variants found throughout eastern temperate North America, and despite vague and partly contradictory indications to the contrary, the names do not correspond to geographical entities that could be classified as "races" by those who recognize this category in the sense of Mayr (1942) and Creighton (1950), though the latter does attempt to maintain *brevispinosa* and *texana* in a racial framework.

Smith (1948) had meanwhile complicated the picture by describing *M. californica* from Santa Barbara, California, based on a single worker that is small and with unusually reduced sculpture, and is lighter and more reddish in color. Smith also mentioned the "tridentate" (trituberculate) anterior clypeal border and flattened scape bases as characteristic of *M. californica*, but as Snelling (1965) has shown, these last two characters vary locally in California, and may be present or absent there in different samples. Brown (1951) stated,

. . . series from the southwestern United States average smaller, are often lighter in color, have smaller propodeal teeth and are more lightly sculptured. An extreme in these respects is reached by *M. R. Smith's M. californica*, which may, when collections from the West are more complete, prove to be one end of a gradual cline.