

is southeastern in the U. S., occurring in Florida, southern Georgia and southern Alabama. It was originally described as *Atta brunnea* by Patton in 1894, and this name has languished in the synonymy of *O. haematodus* for most of the years since then (Emery, 1911). From the description and the type locality (Thomasville, Georgia) there is no doubt about what biological species Patton's name fits; it is an *Odontomachus*, and only one *Odontomachus* occurs in the area. This is a dark brown species with a very deep red, very finely striate head, usually appearing blackish to the naked eye. It is common around hammocks, swamps, and pine, turkey oak and palmetto flats throughout much of Florida and the neighboring counties of Georgia, and it is the form to which the name *Odontomachus haematodus insularis* has been most commonly applied in the U. S. (e. g., Creighton, 1950: 56). It has also been called *O. haematodus* var. *hirsutiusculus* by various authors, and is so labeled in certain European and other collections, but the real *hirsutiusculus* is actually a synonym of the typical *haematodus* [17].

About 1960, I discovered that the Floridian-Georgian form was probably conspecific with what W. M. Wheeler had described in 1905 as *O. haematodes insularis* var. *ruginodis* from Bahaman and Cuban specimens. The name was partly inappropriate, because the U. S. and some other samples lack the transverse striation of the back of the petiolar node that attracted Wheeler's attention in the types. Despite this variation, it then seemed to me that the name *ruginodis* applied to a species found over a vast area ranging from Georgia south through the West Indies, Mexico and South America to Paraguay and Bolivia (although in the Amazon Basin, this species has been confused with *O. haematodus*) [17].

Following this discovery, and before any consideration of the name *brunneus* came into the picture, I discussed my findings with E. O. Wilson and other colleagues, and the combination *Odontomachus ruginodis* was used for the first time in print by Wilson (1964) in his paper on the ants of the Florida Keys. Although several colleagues know about the change, the binomial combination has probably not appeared in print more than 2 or 3 times, and the latest supplement to the Catalog of the Hymenoptera of North America (Krombein *et al.*, 1967: 348) still refers to the U. S. form as «*haematoda insularis*». The name «var. *ruginodis*», placed with *O. haematoda* or *O. haematoda insularis*, was used after 1905 a few times by W.