

M. Wheeler in lists of species of different West Indian Islands, and once by M. R. Smith (1937) in a list of the ants of Puerto Rico. European workers meanwhile used «*hirsutiuscula*» for this species as found in South America, while to my knowledge, *ruginodis* in any combination was not used for any North American sample before 1964. Thus, the great preponderance of mentions of this species in the literature have employed names that were incorrectly applied to it, and its nomenclature can scarcely be called «stable».

Since *ruginodis* was originally published as a variety of a subspecies in a quadrinomial combination, there is doubt about its availability as a species-group name until its publication as a binomial combination in 1964. To further complicate the problem, the name *O. h. var. fuscus* was applied by Stitz to this same species, although the name *fuscus* was already preoccupied twice, once by Stitz himself. Baroni Urbani supplied a replacement name, var. *repetita*, for Stitz' second *fuscus*. Another consideration is the fact that the *ruginodis* types and some other West Indian samples have the transversely striate rear face of the petiolar node, while North American populations lack distinct striation here. Thus, devotees of the trinomen might wish to recognize two subspecies on this basis, at which time the U. S. and some other populations would need a subspecies name or names.

With all of these doubts and complications, it seems to me the best course is to return to a point of relative certainty and adopt the name *brunneus* for the North American populations and, if one accepts my interpretation, for the whole species. This action does not violate the spirit of the new «statute of limitations» rule (replacing the controversial article 23b of the Code) adopted by the 17th International Congress of Zoology at Monaco in 1972 (Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 29: 177; 1972), since in my opinion it will give a stable, legitimate name to a species that has never had one since 1894.

We may capsulize the foregoing discussion in terms of summary synonymy:

- O. insularis* Guérin (Bahamas, Cuba, Haiti)
- = var. *pallens* Wheeler
- = var. *wheeleri* Mann
- O. clarus* Roger (Mexico, S. W. U. S., Clarion I.)
- = *haematodus desertorum* Wheeler
- = *haematodus coninodis* Wheeler
- = *haematodus clarionensis* Wheeler