

Museum. The same specimen of *ursus*, from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, also agrees well enough with Forel's description of var. *gracilinoda*. It is doubtful whether Forel ever saw any other material of *ursus*, and his description of the variety, drawn up as a comparison with the "typical" *ursus*, does not in fact depart much from either Mayr's description or the actual Bilimek specimen, allowing for the usual imprecision of characterizations of earlier times. The type of all three taxa may in fact have come from the same collection, since some Bilimek ant material found its way into several widely separated institutions, including the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, from which Cresson probably sent the specimen described by André.

*Aphaenogaster pergandei* new combination

*Ceratopheidole pergandieri* (!) Donisthorpe, 1950, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (12)3:639, ♀. Type loc.: Gaziantep, southern Turkey.

*Ceratopheidole pergandei*; Donisthorpe, 1950, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (12)3:1060, emendation of spelling.

The types, reviewed in 1978 in the British Museum, are workers of one of the yellowish-colored species of *Aphaenogaster* from the Middle East, so they should be transferred from *Pheidole* (or its subgenus *Ceratopheidole*, apparently treated as a genus by Donisthorpe). Unfortunately, the specific name *pergandei* is preoccupied in *Aphaenogaster* by *A. pergandei* Mayr (1886b:444), original name of the ant now called *Veromessor pergandei*. I think the substitution of a new name for Donisthorpe's species should be postponed until the yellow *Aphaenogaster* of the Levant can be revised, since there is a good possibility that a senior synonym exists for the preoccupied name.

This case is one more illustration of the nomenclatorial problems that can be caused by the use of patronyms, especially patronyms honoring specialists or collectors in a species-rich taxon. Species named for such personages as Mayr, Forel, Emery, Wheeler, Frederick Smith, M. R. Smith (and several other Smiths), Silvestri, Arnold, Arnoldi, Froggatt, Pergande, various Hewitts, and so on, are probably the most frequent source of homonyms, especially in cases where a genus is split into subgenera, or when two genera are merged by synonymy. Even ignoring questions of taste, pronounceability, and the mnemonic qualities of newly coined species names, patronyms must be considered as inefficient and potentially counter-productive in insect taxonomy.

*Pheidole megacephala*

*Formica megacephala* Fabricius, 1893:361, soldier. Type loc.: "Isle de France" (=Mauritius).