

# CAMPONOTUS USTUS FOREL AND TWO SIMILAR NEW SPECIES FROM PUERTO RICO (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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**ABSTRACT.** Although *Camponotus ustus* Forel, originally described from St. Thomas, now a part of the American Virgin Islands, has been long considered common in Puerto Rico, we found that such specimens are misidentified and actually represent two distinct species, both previously undescribed. These are described herein as *C. kaura* and *C. taino*. Based on the types and additional material from Mona Island, we have redescribed *C. ustus*. The following new synonymy is proposed: *C. ustus* = *C. ulysses* Forel = *C. furnissi* Wheeler and Mann = *C. sublautus* Wheeler and Mann = *C. depolitus* Wheeler = *C. larvigerus* Wheeler and Mann = *C. larvigerus maculifrons* Menozzi. One purported Colombian variety, *arhuacus* Forel, is tentatively elevated to species. All three species are illustrated, and a key is provided, in English and Spanish, for the separation of the *Camponotus* of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

**RESUMEN.** Aunque *Camponotus ustus* Forel, originalmente descrita de la Isla de St. Thomas, se ha considerado común en Puerto Rico, hemos encontrado que estos especímenes had sido identificados incorrectamente y actualmente representan dos especies diferentes y sin describir. Estas nuevas especies son descritas aquí como *C. kaura* y *C. taino*. Basado en los tipos de *C. ustus* y material adicional de la Isla de Mona, hemos redescrito esta especie; las subespecies de *C. ustus* de La Española (*ulysses* Forel, *furnissi* Wheeler y Mann, *sublautus* Wheeler y Mann, y *depolitus* Wheeler) son tratadas como sinónimos. Una variedad presumiblemente Colombiana, *arhuacus* Forel es tentivamente elevada a especie. Las tres especies son ilustradas y una clave es presentada, en inglés y español, para identificar las especies de *Camponotus* de Puerto Rico y las Isla Virgenes.

## INTRODUCTION

Wheeler (1908) recorded specimens from several Puerto Rican localities as *Camponotus ustus*, and subsequent researchers (e.g., Smith 1937) have been content to accept that identification. We examined many of the specimens seen by Wheeler, Smith, and others; it quickly became apparent that we were dealing with a mixed lot that actually consisted of two species. In order to determine which was the true *C. ustus*, described from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, RRS examined the syntypic series in the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva (MHNG). Despite the unusually poor condition of the few specimens available, it became clear that neither of the Puerto species was conspecific with those syntypes. We were further able to determine, after examining type material of similar-appearing taxa described from other Greater Antillean islands, that neither had been previously described from elsewhere and that both appear to be Puerto Rico Bank endemics.

In order that the names might be available for use by other researchers, in advance of our general treatment of the Puerto Rican ants, we here re-characterize *C. ustus* and describe as new the two Puerto Rican species.

## SPECIMENS EXAMINED

In addition to the abundant Puerto Rican material deposited in the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (LACM), we have studied important syntypic and other specimens in the collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva (MHNG), and the National Museum of Natural History (USNM).

## TERMINOLOGY

The morphological terminology used below is consistent with most recent literature on ant systematics (e.g., Bolton 1994). We differ from Bolton in some respects. For example, we consider the ant head to be hypognathous; therefore, the vertex ("occiput" of some authors) is dorsal, rather than "posterior" and the mandibles are ventral, rather than "anterior." It follows, then, that the antennal sockets and frontal lobes are on the front of the head, not on the "dorsum." The following acronyms and special terms are used in the descriptions: *Cephalix Index* (CI)—The ratio of head length

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