

A Revision of the Ant Genus *Acanthostichus* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

by

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Acanthostichus* is found exclusively in the New World and consists of predominantly subterranean, predaceous ants that are rarely collected. Eleven new species are described, of a total of 22 species in the genus. Keys are provided for the workers and males. The new species and species with synonyms include: *Acanthostichus arizonensis* **new species** of USA (south eastern Arizona), *A. bentoni* **new species** of Brazil (Amazonas and Mato Grosso), *A. brevicornis* Emery of Guiana, Brazil and Argentina, *A. brevinodis* **new species** of central eastern Brazil, *A. concavinodis* **new species** of Bolivia, *A. emmae* **new species** of Mexico (Oaxaca?), *A. femoralis* Kusnezov of Argentina and Brazil, *A. flexuosus* **new species** of southern Brazil, *A. fuscipennis* Emery of Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Brazil, *A. kirbyi* Emery of Peru, Brazil and Bolivia south to Argentina, *A. laevigatus* **new species** of Venezuela, *A. laticornis* Forel (= *A. laticornis* var. *obscuridens* Bruch) of Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina, *A. lattkei* **new species** of Venezuela, *A. punctiscapus* **new species** of USA (New Mexico), *A. quadratus* Emery (= *A. serratulus* var. *niger* Santschi **new syn.**) of Ecuador south to Argentina, *A. quirozi* **new species** of Mexico (Vera Cruz), *A. sanchezorum* MacKay of Colombia, *A. serratulus* (F. Smith) of Argentina and Brazil, *A. skwarrae* Wheeler of Mexico (Vera Cruz), *A. texanus* Forel (= *Ctenopyga townsendi* Ashmead) of USA (southern Texas) and Mexico (Nuevo León) and *A. truncatus* **new species** of Colombia. A species based on fossils also exists. The genus *Ctenopyga* is synonymized with *Acanthostichus*.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Acanthostichus* is a member of the subfamily Cera-pachyinae, which is a monophyletic group and should be considered distinct from the subfamily Ponerinae (Bolton 1990a, 1990b, Baroni Urbani et al. 1992). *Acanthostichus* can be defined by two synapomorphies in the workers and females: the presence of peculiar metatibial glands (Bolton 1990b) and the malar groove present below the eye

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