

A REVISION OF THE NEOTROPICAL ANTS OF THE GENUS
CAMPONOTUS, SUBGENUS *MYRMOSTENUS*
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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Abstract.—The subgenus *Myrmostenus* consists of a group of 6 species of South American (Peru, Bolivia and Brasil) ants which are known only from the females. The species include *C. convexiclypeus* MacKay (**new species**), *C. leptocephalus* Emery, *C. longipilis* Emery, *C. mirabilis* Emery, *C. postangulatus* Emery (**new status**) and *C. spenocephalus* Emery. They are easily recognized as the head is greatly elongated and somewhat flattened. Nothing is known of the biology of this interesting subgenus. A key is provided for identification of the species.

Resumen.—El subgénero *Myrmostenus* consiste de un grupo de seis especies de hormigas de Perú y Brasil conocidas solamente por las hembras. Las especies incluyen *C. convexiclypeus* MacKay, *C. longipilis* Emery, *C. leptocephalus* Emery, *C. mirabilis* Emery, *C. postangulatus* Emery y *C. spenocephalus* Emery. Se pueden reconocer porque la cabeza es elongada y aplanada. La biología de estas hormigas interesantes es desconocida. Se incluye una clave para la determinación de las especies.

Key Words: Neotropics, Peru, Brasil, *Camponotus*, *Myrmostenus*, Areas neotropicales, Perú, Brasil

With the exception of the small Nearctic and European faunas, the genus *Camponotus* currently consists of poorly defined groups (“subgenera”) in which species identification is nearly impossible. The genus as a whole is often considered an enormous group of rather bland ants, with few good characters for separating species. While this is probably true for some subgenera (i.e., *Tanaemyrmex*, *Mymobrachys*), there are certainly many exceptions. One of the most fascinating groups in the genus is the subgenus *Myrmostenus* which, unfortunately, is known only from the females. Species in this subgenus are easily recog-

nized by their distinctive, elongate heads and, as this study reveals, have good characters for the separation of species. Nothing is known of the biology of this curious South American subgenus.

This is the first in a series of contributions towards the understanding of the New World species of this large, complex genus.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were borrowed from several institutions and curators as follows:

AMNH, American Museum of Natural History, New York, Mark Smethurst.

CASC, California Academy of Sciences,