

A review of the subgenus *Hemioptica* Roger of the genus *Polyrhachis* Fr. Smith with description of a new species (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Formicinae)

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The genus-group taxon *Hemioptica* Roger is reviewed and treated as a subgenus of *Polyrhachis* Fr. Smith. Three species are recognised: *P. bugnioni* Forel, *P. scissa* (Roger), and *P. boltoni* spec. nov. Previously included taxa *P. abrupta* Mayr, *P. aculeata* Mayr and *P. pubescens* Mayr are transferred to the subgenus *Polyrhachis* (*Myrma*) Billberg. A key to species of *Hemioptica* is provided; distribution ranges of individual species are given and known ecological data summarised. A lectotype is designated for *P. scissa* (Roger).

Introduction

The genus *Hemioptica* was established by Roger (1862) as a genus close to *Polyrhachis* Fr. Smith (1858), but characterised by posteriorly truncated eyes and a deep transverse furrow between the mesonotum and the propodeum. Subsequent myrmecologists have been undecided as to whether *Hemioptica* should be regarded as a 'good' genus, a subgenus of *Polyrhachis* or a synonym of the latter. Roger (1862, 1863), Emery (1893, 1896, 1901, 1902, 1923, 1925), Dalla Torre (1893), Ashmead (1905), Ruzskij (1905), Yano (1911), Donisthorpe (1942, 1943), Chapman & Capco (1951), and Hung (1962, 1967) accepted generic rank for *Hemioptica*, while Mayr (1862, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1879), Fr. Smith (1871), Forel (1878, 1879, 1916) and Bingham (1896, 1903) were evidently uncertain, since each published changing or conflicting opinions.

Mayr (1862, 1866) initially accepted *Hemioptica* as a genus, but in 1867 described *P. abrupta* as *Polyrhachis* 'Turma' *abrupta*, an intermediate between *Hemioptica* and *Polyrhachis*. In 1868 he listed *Hemioptica* again as a genus, but in 1872 apparently reversed this opinion by incorporating *Hemioptica* with the genus *Polyrhachis*. In 1878 he established 'abrupta (*Hemioptica* Rog.)' as a sixth essentially subgeneric group within *Polyrhachis*, including the species *abrupta* and 'scissa (*Hemioptica*) Rog.' and added two new species, *P. aculeata* Mayr and *P. pubescens* Mayr. Frederick Smith (1871) was evidently uncertain as to the generic status of *Hemioptica* and listed its only constituent species as 'Hemioptica (*Polyrhachis*?) *scissa* Roger'. Emery (1893) accepted *Hemioptica* as a monotypical genus, and noted that the other species of Mayr's 'Turma' *abrupta* did not constitute a distinct group, but were in fact, related to the *relucens*-group of *Polyrhachis*. Emery maintained this opinion in later studies (1896, 1902, 1925). In 1921, however, he suggested that the generic status of *Hemioptica* was a matter of 'personal appreciation'. Bingham initially (1896) listed *scissa* under