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17 NOTES ON CHINESE ANTS: I. *CREMATOGASTER* LUND

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***Crematogaster* (*Orthocrema*) *sordidula* subsp. *osakensis* Forel**

- C. sordidula* var. *osakensis* Forel, 1900, Bull. Soc. Ent. Suisse, **10**: 269, ♂.
C. sordidula var. *japonica* Forel, 1912, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., **56**: 339, ♀.
C. sordidula osakensis var. *japonica* Emery, 1912, Deutsch. Ent. Zeitschr., p. 672, ♀.
(Wheeler, 1928, Boll. Lab. Zool. Portici, **21**: 111-112, ♀♀♂.)

In the reference listed in parentheses above, Wheeler discusses the variation of *osakensis* and comes to the conclusion that size difference is the only character which reliably distinguishes *japonica*. I do not know whether any Japanese worker has studied these forms, but I feel sure that the synonymy of *japonica* with *osakensis* is long overdue. Forel's measurement of ants must have been very crude, for I have often found them differing very widely from my own and other authors' careful measurements of types of other Forelian species of ants. In any case, Chinese series of *osakensis* show a size range of from 2.3 to 3.1 mm., variability in the darkness of the gaster, and considerable variation in the convexity of the eyes, often within the same nest. The relationship of *osakensis* to other forms of *Orthocrema* from North America and Palearctic Eurasia needs study.

I have taken *osakensis* in the following localities in West China:

Szechuan Province: Mou Man Shan, a series of bluffs one mile north of the airfield at Hsin Ching. Mountains just back of Kuan Hsien City, 1200 m. Mount Ormei, moist lauraceous forest, 3-4000 feet.

Shensi Province: Slope of main gorge, two miles north of Pao Ch'eng.

Collections from several other localities in these two provinces were lost in the wartime mails; the species was fairly common in both populated rice-raising areas and brush- or forest-covered mountain slopes in both Central Szechuan and Southern Shensi. The nests are usually situated under stones; though several nests were excavated, no queen was ever found. Eidmann has reported this species from Wasukou in Sikang Province.

***Crematogaster (Acrocoelia) chungi* Wheeler**

C. (A.) brunnea ruginota var. *chungi* Wheeler, 1929, Amer. Mus. Nov., No. 361, p. 2, ♀.

The types of this form do not agree well with specimens of *brunnea* Fred. Smith or its subsp. *ruginota* Forel determined by Wheeler in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The entire head above the eyes is smooth and shining throughout (obscurely longitudinally striate from the eyes below on the sides of the head), with only the minute circular punctulae from which the hairs stem marring its surface. The erect hairs are few on the head; the curved appressed hairs between them more numerous, but still fewer and more sparse than in other Chinese *Crematogaster* I have seen. The dorsum of the thorax and epinotum ("base") longitudinally and coarsely but rather regularly costate. Epinotum with very short, stocky teeth, acute, but not nearly so long or acute as in *ruginota* specimens I have seen. The type locality is Foochow, China.

In the paper in which *chungi* was originally described, Wheeler also describes and discusses other forms of *Acrocoelia* from the Far East. To my mind, Wheeler has done little to clarify the confusion which exists in this difficult complex. Japanese workers have an excellent chance to work this group up satisfactorily on the basis of modern concepts of the species and geographical race which Wheeler unfortunately did not employ. I stand ready to provide Chinese material in *Crematogaster* and to implement exchanges of cotypes from the Museum of Comparative Zoology to any-competent and willing reviser.

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