Five New Synonyms for the Argentine Ant Fauna (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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In a posthumous paper by the late N. Kusnezov (1969) six new Argentine species of ants were described. Four of these are presently recognized as synonyms of previously diagnosed species, upon direct comparison of the respective types. A fifth synonym, authored by Santschi (1934), was recently discovered by routine examination of my ant collection (WWK) and is published here inasmuch as it belongs to the same fauna.

I wish to thank Dr. A. Willink and his staff of the Instituto Miguel Lillo at Tucumán, Argentina (IML) for the loan of the Kusnezov types, and Dr. C. Besuchet of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle at Geneva, Switzerland (MHNG) for the loan of the *Myrmelachista* types of the Forel collection.

This note is dedicated to the memory of my unforgettable master in myrmecology, Father Thomas Borgmeier.

Subfamily Ponerinae

Gnamptogenys nana Kempf

Gnamptogenys nana Kempf, 1960: 422-423, figs. 7-9 (☿; Brazil, São Paulo State: Agudos). *Parectatomma dina* Kusnezov, 1969: 35 (☿; Argentina, Salta: Alemania). Nov. Syn.

When proposing his *dina,* Kusnezov not only ignored that the genus *Parectatomma* had been placed into synonymy of *Gnamptogenys* by Brown (1958), but also overlooked the fact that I had already described this species from the interior of the State of São Paulo, Brazil. The synonymy based on a direct comparison of the types involved leaves no doubt about the synonymy.

Material examined: ARGENTINA, *Salta:* Alemania, 18-II-1948, N. Kusnezov leg. 6 ☿☿ (syntypes of *dina;* IML n. 1129). BRAZIL, *São Paulo State:* Agudos, 29-VIII-1958, R. Mueller, O.F.M. leg. ☿ (holotype of *nana;* WWK n. 2633); ibidem, 6-I-1971, W. W. Kempf, O.F.M. leg. 1 ☿ (WWK n. 6163, now in MCZ); *Federal District:* Brasília, north wing, within city limits, 5-X-1975, J. Diniz leg. 1 ☿ (WWK n. 11775).

Neoponera (Eumecopone) goyana Borgmeier

Neoponera (*Eumecopone*) *goyana* Borgmeier, 1937: 230-231, figs. 11-14. (☿; Brazil, Goiás State: Goiânia, Campinas).
Neoponera (*Eumecopone*) *golbachi* Kusnezov, 1969: 36 (☿; Argentina, Misiones: Puerto Iguazú). Nov. Syn.

In the original description of *golbachi* Kusnezov states that it differs from *goyana* in the lack of small intercalary teeth on apical half of the huge mandibles, of longitudinal striae on clypeus and transverse striae on propodeum. The types, however, prove that these characters are not only present, but even in part better expressed in *golbachi* than in *goyana*. The types of the former compared with the holotype of the latter are absolutely identical.

Material examined: ARGENTINA, *Misiones:* Puerto Iguazú, VI-1949, N. Kusnezov leg. 2 ☿☿ (types of *golbachi;* IML n. 4792). BRAZIL, *São Paulo State:* Monte Aprazível, III-1975, J. Diniz leg. several ☿☿ from nest (coll. J. Diniz n. 729, WWK); *Rio de Janeiro State:* Rio de Janeiro, São Silvestre, III-1974, Pedro leg. 1 alate ♀ (coll. T. Borgmeier in WWK); *Goiás State:* Goiânia, Campinas, III-1930. J. S. Schwarzmaier leg. 1 ☿ (holotype of *goyana;* coll. T. Borgmeier in WWK); Anápolis, in «Cerrado» (= savanna) 7 km S from town, II-1958, W. W. Kempf leg. 1 ☿ (WWK n. 2245, presently in MCZ); *Mato Grosso State:* Sinop, Long. 55° 37' W, Lat. 12° 31' S, on the new Cuiabá-Santarém Road, X-1974, M. Alvarenga & O. Roppa leg. 10 ☿☿ (WWK n. 12380).

Note. The validity of genus *Neoponera* and its subgenus *Eumecopone* are doubtful, as is the specific distinction between the three species listed under the latter, viz. *rostrata, agilis* and *goyana*. This problem will be dealt with in the forthcoming revision of the ant tribe Ponerini by W. L. Brown, Jr.

Subfamily Formicinae

Myrmelachista (Hincksidris) arthuri Forel

Myrmelachista arthuri Forel, 1903: 263 (☿; Brazil, Rio de Janeiro: Corcovado).
Myrmelachista ute Kusnezov, 1969: 34-35 (☿; Argentina, Misiones: Manuel Belgrano). Nov. Syn.

I have the types of both species at hand and cannot find any difference between them. Kusnezov compares his *ute* with *goeldii,* a different and much rarer species (Brazil: São Paulo and Santa Catarina States), but makes no mention of the more common *arthuri* (Brazil: States of Paraná, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Goiás), from which it is indistinguishable.

The type series of *ute* consists of 24 workers which were collected in subtropical forest at Manuel Belgrano, Misiones Territory, Argentina, from a tree where they were running on the bark (IML n. 5066).

Myrmelachista (Hincksidris) gagatina Emery

Myrmelachista gagatina Emery, 1894: 377 nota (☿; Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul: Camaquam).
Myrmelachista ina Kusnezov, 1969: 33-34 (☿; Argentina. Misiones: Manuel Belgrano). Nov. Syn.

Kusnezov's species is based on 41 workers taken from the bark of a living tree in subtropical forest, at the same locality as the preceding species (IML n. 4777). Checked against a syntype of *gagatina,* received from the Forel collection (MHNG), they proved entirely identical with the latter.

In my collection (WWK), *gagatina* is represented from the following States in Brazil: Santa Catarina, Paraná, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais.

Camponotus (Myrmobrachys) mus Roger

Camponotus mus Roger, 1863: 143 (☿, ♀; Uruguay: Montevideo).
Camponotus (Myrmobrachys) ogloblini Santschi, 1934: 32, pl. 3, fig. 20 (☿; Argentina, Misiones: Loreto).

Santschi's *ogloblini* (n. 2030) was based on two workers, one of which is in the Borgmeier collection (WWK). The peculiar shape of the thorax, which is more continuously vaulted, with the distinction between the basal and declivous face of propodeum nearly obsolete, and having the mesonotum overdeveloped, being nearly as broad as pronotum, at a first look justifies this aberrant form as a valid species. I have now come across similar thorax shapes in other *Camponotus* species, especially jn a few specimens of *C. (Myrmobrachys) senex* from Pariquera-açu, São Paulo State, Brazil and of *C. (Myrmotrhix) femoratus* from Sinop, Mato Grosso State, Brazil, which show a similar hypertrophy of the mesothorax seems ingly indicating that the specimens in question are pseudogynes. I have reached the conclusion that the same holds true for *ogloblini* which is otherwise indistinguishable from *mus,* and both occur at the same place. Hence I believe that this new case of synonymy is securely established.

The typical *C. mus* occurs in most of the Argentine, in Uruguay and Paraguay, and in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina States of Brazil.

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