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**SYNONYMS OF FORMICA DIFFICILIS EMERY
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)¹**

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In 1939, I described as new the ant, *Formica habrogyna*. Some time after that a formicologist wrote me that he considers *habrogyna* to be a synonym of *difficilis* var. *consocians* Wheeler. Upon further study of long series of all castes of *habrogyna* and comparisons of them with topotypes of *consocians*, kindly sent to me by the American Museum of Natural History, I have arrived at an opinion that although *habrogyna* is undoubtedly identical to *consocians*, *consocians* is also well within the limits of specific variation of *difficilis*.

Although apparently there were, in the U. S. National Museum, numerous workers and a number of males and females of *difficilis* which had been collected at the type locality by Pergande and which might even represent a part of the type series, Wheeler established *consocians* after having compared his specimens with a single female from Virginia, two badly rubbed workers from New Jersey and a long series of workers and one deãlated female collected in North Carolina. Since he based the variety primarily on a greater pilosity, it is easy to understand his overlooking such a variable character as pilosity in *difficilis*. Wheeler was apparently erroneously led to believe, therefore, that *consocians* is more hairy than *difficilis*.

Mr. W. F. Buren has informed me that he has compared metatopotypes of *habrogyna* with a worker and a female (possibly from the original type series) collected at Rosslyn, Virginia, by Pergande. He states that the specimens of *difficilis* are definitely more pilose and pubescent than are the metatopotypes of *habrogyna* with which he compared them.

Because of the great variability in pilosity of *difficilis*, and since there are no characters of sufficient significance for separating *consocians* and *habrogyna* from *difficilis*, I am, therefore, of the opinion that both *consocians* and *habrogyna* should be relegated to the synonymy which is as follows:

***Formica difficilis* Emery**

- F. pallidefulva* Mayr (nec Latreille), 1866, Vehr. Zool. bot. ver. Wien, 16: 889.
F. rufa subsp. *difficilis* Emery, 1893, Zool. jahrb. Syst., 7: 651.
F. difficilis Wheeler, 1904, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 20: 306, 348.
F. difficilis var. *consocians* Wheeler, 1904, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 20: 371; *loc. cit.*, 1906, 22: 50; 1913, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ., 53: 479-480.
F. habrogyna Cole, 1939, Amer. Midl. Nat., 22: 413-417; *loc. cit.*, 1940, 24: 76-77.

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