

THE DACETINE ANT GENUS
Pentastruma (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)¹

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The genus *Pentastruma* was established by Forel (*loc. cit. infra*) on the basis of a single Taiwanese worker specimen that he described (*P. sauteri*) as having 5 antennal segments, a very unusual number even for a member of the Dacetini, to which tribe he indicated that it belonged. In several ways, the description read as though based on a depilated species of *Smithistruma*, and when, several years ago, Dr. Masao Kubota sent specimens of a nearly hairless short-mandibulate dacetine from Japan, WLB suspected that it might be close to *Pentastruma sauteri*, despite the fact that its antennae displayed the 6-merous condition usual in strumigenite dacetines.

Now we have finally discovered the location of the Hans Sauter Collection of Taiwanese ants, in the Institut für Pflanzenschutz-forschung (BZA) der Akademie der Landwirtschaftswissenschaften der Deutsche Demokratik Republic in Eberswalde. Through the kind offices of Dr. G. Morge we have been able to borrow some critical formicid types from the Sauter material, among them the unique specimen of *Pentastruma sauteri*. This worker proves to be close to the Japanese species received from Dr. Kubota, but it is specifically distinct. It does also have 6 antennomeres, with the normal strumigenite proportions, and not 5 as stated by Forel. In its general form, *P. sauteri* is a rather typical *Smithistruma*, except for its complete lack of standing or other conspicuous hairs on head, trunk and petiole, and the new Japanese species matches it in these respects.

It seems logical that *Pentastruma* should eventually be merged with *Smithistruma*, but the latter genus is itself not stable at this

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