

A World Revision of the Ant Tribe Basicerotini (Hym. Formicidae)

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(With 63 text-figures)

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Introduction

The Basicerotini first emerged in the literature as a separate tribe of subfamily Myrmicinae only ten years ago (Brown, 1949). Before that, *Basiceros* and *Rhopalothrix* had been considered for a long time to belong to tribe Dacetini (Emery, 1922) along with such extraneous elements as *Blepharidatta* Wheeler (now placed in tribe Ochetomyrmicini) and *Peronomyrmex* Viehmeyer (at present thought to be near *Lordomyrma* Emery). It is now even clearer than in 1949 that the basicerotine genera are not especially closely related to the dacetines, and that the characters held in common by some members of the two tribes are due to convergence. This conclusion is underlined by the discovery of *Dacetinops cibdela* Brown and Wilson (1957), a New Guinea myrmicine that is convergent in amazing detail to some of the short-mandibulate Dacetini, although it appears phyletically unrelated to either the dacetines or the basicerotines. It is significant in this respect that the most primitive members of

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