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TATUIDRIS, A REMARKABLE NEW GENUS
OF FORMICIDAE
(HYMENOPTERA)

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INTRODUCTION

The two remarkable ant specimens we describe below were sent to us originally by Mr. R. R. Snelling of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History in California. After prolonged study, we concluded that they represent a genus and species of Myrmicinae certainly very unlike any ants previously described, and that they could not reasonably be included in any living formicid tribe so far known. True, this new ant shares some striking habitus characters with certain Dacetini (*Glomyrmex*, *Gynomyrmex*), and also with the anomalous *Phalacromyrmex* (Kempf 1960), but analysis of these similarities indicates to us that they are mostly convergent and not based on close phylogenetic relationship.

In addition to comparisons with living ant genera, we checked through some likely fossil groups. Our attention soon came to rest on the primitive myrmicine genus *Agroecomyrmex*, of the Oligocene Baltic Amber (Wheeler 1914). We believe that our new genus and *Agroecomyrmex*, while at first sight very unlike each other, are nevertheless linked by some fundamental resemblances that we shall cite below in the tribal diagnosis and ensuing discussion. In fact, we feel that the two genera should be placed together in the same tribe. This tribe is already available in Carpenter's (1930) *Agroecomyrmecini*, raised to receive *Agroecomyrmex* and his then new

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