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A REVISION OF THE NEOTROPICAL DACETINE
ANT GENUS *ACANTHOGNATHUS*
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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INTRODUCTION

At the time it was last reviewed (by M. R. Smith in 1944), *Acanthognathus* contained three species: *ocellatus*, *lentus* and *brevicornis*, known from Central America and a few localities along the eastern edge of South America. In the present paper we are able to add three distinctive new species—one from the heart of Amazonia, one from the Pacific Slope of Colombia, and one from Southeastern Brasil; and a male of the genus is described for the first time. We present fragmentary observations on living colonies of *A. rudis* and *A. ocellatus* to confirm M. R. Smith's surmise that the genus is predaceous, at least to some extent on Collembola.

Acanthognathus is a very distinctive genus within the tribe Dacetini, to which it clearly belongs, and within which it is one of the two most primitive living genera (Brown and Wilson, 1959). The other primitive member is *Daceton*, containing a single spectacular species confined to hylaeian South America (Wilson, 1962). Though *Daceton* and *Acanthognathus* workers share a number of primitive characters (antennal segments 11; palpal segments 5, 3; compound eyes large; antennal scrobes absent; humeri armed), they are very different in size, habitus, and choice of nest site, and thus may have diverged a long time ago. *Acanthognathus* has the aspect of a genus that has begun a shift from epigaeic to cryptic foraging. Its retention of large eyes, multisegmented antennae and palpi, and long mandibles suggests that much of its foraging must still be done in the open,

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