

NEW SPECIES OF AFRICAN HYMENOPTERA

No. 10

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FORMICIDAE

Before describing a few new species of this family some observations on synonymy are called for. Mr William J. Brown (Harvard University) has drawn my attention to the close similarity between *Sporocleptes nicotianae* Arn., and *Aneleus politus* Sant., and between the genus *Limnomyrmex* Arn. and *Leptothorax*, subgenus *Nesomyrmex* Wheeler, and has suggested that there is probably a synonymy. He also kindly sent me a specimen of *Aneleus politus*, collected at Blue Post Hotel, Kenya, and determined by Menozzi.

A comparison of this specimen with *Sporocleptes nicotianae* proves that *Sporocleptes* must be placed in synonymy with *Aneleus*, and that *nicotianae* may be regarded as a race of *politus*, from which it differs as follows. The head is much less convex transversely, the epinotal teeth are longer, the sides of the epinotum are reticulate, the apex of the node of the petiole is wider, and the colour is much paler. Santschi's figure is inaccurate, as the membranous extension ventrad of the epinotal spines has been omitted.

In regard to the genus *Limnomyrmex* I am unable to agree with Mr Brown that it is synonymous with *Nesomyrmex* Wheeler (= *Goniothorax* Emery 1896, nec Milne-Edwards, 1879). In the shape of the post-petiole there is undoubtedly a similarity to that of *Limnomyrmex* (*Nesomyrmex*) *pulcher* Em., as figured by Emery in *Gen. Insectorum*, Pl. 5, fig. 9, but the petiole is quite different. Moreover, in *Limnomyrmex* the epinotal dorsum, widely dilated in the middle, the shape of the epinotal spines, and the exceedingly fine sculpture of the whole body are unlike that of any of the South African species of the subgenus, and of the American species *pulcher* Em. and *schwebeli* Forel. The frontal carinae and the scapes are also much shorter than in those species. On the other hand, the genus is perhaps more closely related to *Leptothorax* than to either *Atopula* or *Atopomyrmex*.

***Bothroponera pumicosa* Rog. race *berthoudi* For.**

1901, *Rev. Suisse Zool.* IX, 344.

1913, *Ann. Soc. ent. Belg.* LVII, 109.

Forel's *berthoudi* is indistinguishable from *strigulosa* Em. and must sink as a synonym. The sculpture is the same, consisting of large, shallow and round pits, almost contiguous on the head and pronotum, and of very large and deep pits on the first tergite and basal half of the