The Genus Terataner Emery (Formicidae)

by

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This genus was erected by Emery (1912) to include seven species, of which six had been originally described as belonging to the genus Atopomyrmex E.Andre. In the same paper he erected another genus, Atopula (p. 104) to include three species, the genotype A. nodifera Em. originally placed in Atopomyrmex, and A. belti Forel and A. ceylonica Emery. Forel (1917) erected a new genus Brunella for belti, and placed A. ceylonica in the genus Leptothorax.

Recently I received two specimens of an ant from Dr. J. C. Faure, collected at Marieps, E. Transvaal, which appeared to have some of the characters of both Terataner and Atopula, and therefore led me to examine more closely the characters of those genera as set forth by Emery in the Genera Insectorum (1922). The conclusion arrived at is that Terataner bottegoi Em. and the new species transvaalensis described below should be placed in a new subgenus Tranetera, retaining in Terataner s.str. only the following species, foreli Em., alluaudi Em., luteus Em., steinheili Forel, scotti Forel and rufipes Em. Furthermore, Atopula, with genotype nodifera Em. should be reduced to a subgenus of Terataner. The artificial nature of that genus was recognized by Emery, since in his diagnosis (1922) he says "Le genre Atopula est un groupe dont les caractères sont en grande partie négatifs, c'est-à-dire indifférents. . . . Peut-être Atopula est-il un groupe hétérogène, un residu de classification." The characters of the genus and of the subgenera may be distinguished as follows:—