

RHOPTROMYRMEX GLOBULINODIS, new synonymy of, and
brief characterization

Insecta: Hymenoptera: Formicidae

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Pilot Register of Zoology
Card No. 17
Issued 20 May 1964.

Rhoptryrmex globulinodis Mayr, 1901, Ann. naturh. Hofmus., Wien, 16: 20, worker, gyne, male. Type locality Port Elizabeth, S. Africa. Types in Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna (and elsewhere); examined 1963.

Rhoptryrmex globulinodis st. Alberti Forel, 1916, Rev. suisse Zool., 24: 419, worker. Type locality "Congo." Types in Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva (and elsewhere), examined 1963. New synonymy.

Rhoptryrmex globulinodis var. obscurus Santschi, 1932, Livre centen. Soc. ent. Fr., p. 389, worker, male. Type locality Cloudland, 6000 ft., Vumba Mts., S. Rhodesia. Types in Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel (and elsewhere) examined 1963. New synonymy.

Worker: Most like R. opacus in form, but with the sculpture of upper head and alitrunk reduced, integument in large part smooth and shining; fine punctures often occur on the occiput, and the alitrunk may have areas of fine obsolescent striolation above, shading to indistinct but subopaque punctulo-reticulation on the pleura. Petiolar node thick, not high; postpetiole subglobular, up to about 1.5 times as broad as long, differing from those of opacus and transversinodis in that it has a prominent rounded process or tumulus projecting somewhat forward as well as downward from its ventral surface. Color yellow to dark brown.

Female: About the length of the largest workers, or a trifle longer, with head less aberrant than that of transversinodis. Body very slender; gaster long and narrow, with a shallow basidorsal impression. Head striate above eyes; pronotum and propodeum finely striolate-shagreened; rest of body mostly smooth, predominantly shining. Long fine oblique pilosity on gaster, grading to shorter pubescence-like pilosity on head and elsewhere, but amount and length of pilosity vary markedly in female samples from two different localities. Color dark brown.

Male: Similar in size and sculpture to female. Antennae 9-segmented. Petiole subclavate, low, its node not differentiated from its peduncle. Color dark brown, head darkest.

Distribution: Southern Africa, from Congo south to south coast of Cape Province, sporadic.

Synonymy: The form alberti is only an allometric variant at the small end of the size range of the species; obscurus is based on a dark-colored montane variant of the kind common among ants.

Published with the aid of a grant from the Department of Entomology and Limnology, New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Edited by W. L. Brown, Jr.