Tranopeltoides Wheeler, a Synonym of Crematogaster Lund (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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In 1922, the late Prof. W. M. Wheeler erected the Myrmecine ant genus *Tranopeltoides* upon the description of a damaged female, proposed earlier (1907) by Forel as *Tranopelta huberi*. In the same paper, Wheeler also described three additional species in the genus *Tranopeltoides*: *parvispina* upon a lone, mutilated female, *bolivianus*, and *peruvianus* each upon a single stray male specimen.

Upon carefully examining the group characters that separate the aforesaid species from *Tranopelta*, it was found that precisely the same distinctive features place them within the genus *Crematogaster*, of which *Tranopeltoides* becomes thus a new synonym. Details of the findings are discussed below under each species.

**Crematogaster** Lund


**Crematogaster huberi** (Forel), new combination.


Neither Wheeler nor I have seen the holotype female of this species, which was already lacking the gaster when Forel first described her in 1907. Due to the fragmentary condition of the specimen it was, of course, impossible to ascertain whether the postpetiole articulated to the dorsal surface (the most obvious feature of *Crematogaster*) or at the anterior end of the gaster (the common condition in the subfamily Myrmicinae). Still,
two other characters contained in the original diagnosis, viz.,
the presence of two epinotal spines and the peculiar shape of
the petiolar node ("anterior slope of petiolar node gently rising
antero-posteriorly in the form of a gradual inclined plane, broad
behind, with convex sides, longer than broad, posteriorly with
two blunt, tooth-like corners"—transl. by Wheeler, 1922) show
that this damaged queen is doubtless a *Crematogaster*.

The species probably belongs to the *limata*-group and may
represent a form already known under a different name in the
worker caste. On account of the small size, the smooth mandi-
bles and the longer scapes it is certainly not the female of *stolli*.

**Crematogaster stolli* Forel

20: 373–375 (worker; Guatemala: Retaluleu).

48, pp. 12–13, fig. 3 d (female: British Guiana: Kaieteur).
NEW SYNONYM.

*Tranopeltoides parvispina* is nothing but the huge female of
*Crematogaster stolli*. Dr. W. L. Brown, Jr., of the Museum of
Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, kindly compared
authentic *stolli* females, which I had sent him, with the *parvi-
spina* holotype. Besides the more faded color of the latter speci-
men, he found no other noticeable difference. Wheeler, like
Forel in the case of *huberi*, erred in the determination of the
genus because his specimen lacked the postpetiole and gaster,
on which the most striking *Crematogaster* characters can be
found.

**Crematogaster boliviana** (Wheeler), new combination

n. 48, pp. 13–14, fig. 3 a, b, c (male; Bolivia: San Firmino).

Two stray *Crematogaster* males from Anicohy and Amapari
rivers, Amapá Territory, Brazil, collected by Prof. John Lane
and deposited in my collection, completely agree with the de-
scription and figures of *bolivianus* and show that Wheeler, once
more, failed to recognize the correct genus. Dr. Brown, at my
request, examined the type specimen and confirmed my suspi-
cion. Due to its relatively large size, this specimen probably
represents the still undescribed male of *stolli*.

**Crematogaster peruviana** (Wheeler), new combination

n. 48, p. 14 (male; Peru: Callanga).

This species, also based on a single stray male, differs from
the preceding species only in trivial characters. According to
Dr. Brown (personal communication) "the differences between
these forms listed by Wheeler either do not exist on the speci-
mens at all, or else they are inconsequential. The antennal
difference, which he emphasized, is incorrectly stated: the third
through sixth funicular segments are about as long in *peru-
vianus* as in *bolivianus*, but in *peruvianus* they are a little
thicker. If Wheeler had actually measured the segments, he
would have seen this." I likewise suspect that this species is
merely a variant of the former, both representing the male sex
of *stolli*. The formal synonymy, however, must needs be based
on better material, presently not available to me.