

Commonwealth of Australia
COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL
RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Reprinted from ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS, Vol. 79, No. 3, March 1968
Printed in U. S. A.

**Nomenclature and Synonymy of the North
American Ants of the Genera *Ponera*
and *Hypoponera* (Hymenoptera:
Formicidae)^{1, 2}**

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This paper partly summarizes taxonomic work in progress on those ants previously assigned to the genus *Ponera* Latreille, *sensu* Emery (1911). It is presented now in order to clarify the nomenclature of the relevant species occurring in America north of Mexico. More complete discussion of these species will be given in several projected papers.

Ponera, *sensu lato*, was shown recently to have included species belonging in two major genera, which take the names *Ponera* Latreille and *Hypoponera* Santschi (Taylor, 1967). Both of these genera occur in North America, where they are

¹ Based on research supported in part by U. S. National Science Foundation Grant No. GB1634.

² Accepted for publication October 3, 1967.

represented by the species listed below. My studies have shown little need for extensive changes in the conceptual limits of the individual species, as reviewed by Smith (1936) and Creighton (1950). However, they have indicated the several major nomenclatural changes presented here.

***Ponera* Latreille, 1804, *sensu* Taylor, 1967**

Complete synonymy, with discussion of the characters, distribution and biology of the following two species has been given elsewhere (Taylor, 1967). These are the only Neogean *Ponera* species; neither has been recorded south of the United States.

1. ***Ponera pennsylvanica* Buckley.**

Ponera pennsylvanica Buckley, 1866, Proc. ent. Soc. Philadelphia 6: 171, worker. Type locality: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This species has been consistently placed as a subspecies of the European *P. coarctata* Latreille by authors following Emery (1895). These amphiatlantic forms are closely related, but I consider them to be specifically distinct (Taylor, 1967).

2. ***Ponera exotica* M. R. Smith.**

Ponera exotica M. R. Smith, 1962, Acta. hymenopt., Tokyo. 1(4): 378, worker, female. Type locality: Croatan National Forest, North Carolina.

***Hypoponera* Santschi, 1938, *sensu* Taylor, 1967**

The new synonymy given below is not complete, in that it includes only those junior synonyms used by previous authors in discussion of the North American fauna. Several of the species have known or presumed synonyms based on material from other parts of the world. The list includes all species known from the Nearctic region. All of these, and many others, are present in the Neotropical region. I have confirmed the validity of the senior synonyms by extensive comparison of their types with those of older names. The types of all names listed in the synonymy have been examined and, where possible, directly cross-compared.

1. **Hypoponera gleadowi** (Forel)
Ponera gleadowi Forel, 1895, Mem. R. Acad. Sci. Bologna (5) 5: 292-293, nota, figs. 17 a-c, worker. Original localities: Poona, Orissa and Thaná, India.
Ponera oblongiceps M. R. Smith, 1939, Proc. ent. Soc. Washington 41 (3): 76-78, figs. 1-3. Type locality: Priest Bridge, Maryland. NEW SYNONYMY.
Hypoponera gleadowi: Taylor, 1967, Pacific Insects Monogr. 13: 12.
2. **Hypoponera inexorata** (Wheeler), NEW COMBINATION
Ponera inexorata Wheeler, 1903, Psyche, 10: 94, fig. 2, worker, queen. Type locality: Austin, Texas (Designated by Creighton, 1950).
3. **Hypoponera opaciceps** (Mayr)
Ponera opaciceps Mayr, 1887, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien 37: 536, worker, queen. Type locality: Santa Catarina, Brazil.
4. **Hypoponera opacior** (Forel); NEW COMBINATION
Ponera trigona var. *opacior* Forel, 1893, Trans. R. ent. Soc. London 1893 (4): 363-364. Type locality: St. Vincent, West Indies.

I have directly compared several syntype specimens of *opacior* with the lectotype of *Hypoponera trigona* (Mayr),³ NEW COMBINATION. Their separate specific status is unquestionable.

5. **Hypoponera punctatissima** (Roger)
Ponera punctatissima Roger, 1859, Berliner. ent. Z. 3: 246-248, plate 7, fig. 7, worker, female. Type locality: Rauden, Silesia.
Ponera ergatandria Forel, 1893, Trans. R. ent. Soc. London 1893 (4): 365-367, worker, queen, male. Type locality: St. Vincent, West Indies.
Hypoponera punctatissima: Taylor, 1967, Pacific Insects. Mongr. 13: 12.

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³ Designated by Kempf, 1962, p. 10.

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