

## Synonymic Note on Ants of the Genus *Paracryptocerus* Emery (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Frederick Smith, in 1867, described four new species of *Cryptocerus* (now: *Paracryptocerus*) from specimens in the collection of W. Wilson Saunders. Through the kindness of Mr. Ernest Taylor of the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford University, I received on loan the types of the aforesaid species and was thus enabled to establish two cases of new synonymy and to confirm another case already proposed by Emery (1922, Gen. Ins. fasc. 174, p. 311).

### *Paracryptocerus conspersus* (F. Smith)

1867. *Cryptocerus conspersus* F. Smith, Trans. Ent. Soc. London (3) 5: 523.  
1894. *Cryptocerus targionii* Emery, Bull. Soc. Ent. Ital. 26: 205. New Synonymy.  
1894. *Cryptocerus denticulatus* Emery, Bull. Soc. Ent. Ital. 26: 206.  
1911. *Cryptocerus denticulatus* var. *variegata* Forel, Sitz.-ber. Bayer. Akad. Wiss., p. 262.

The holotype (unique) of *conspersus*, a worker from the Amazon, has all the distinguishing features of *denticulatus* which, as shown in a study to be published elsewhere, is nothing but the worker of *targionii*, based on a soldier. There are, however, a few trivial differences which deserve mentioning.

Measurements of holotype: Total length 3.9 mm.; max. length of head 1.00 mm.; max. width of head in front of the eyes 1.03 mm.; interocular width 1.00 mm.; Weber's length of thorax 0.97 mm.; max. width of thorax 0.78 mm.

Lower face of head finely punctate, lacking traces of longitudinal rugosities. Thorax rather narrow. Lateral border of pronotum (excluding the scapular corner) tridentate, the first two teeth acute, completely separate, the third tooth subrectangular. Lateral tooth of mesonotum acute. Lateral border of epinotum with 5 teeth: 1st short and subacute; 2nd stronger, acute; 3rd or supplementary fine and needle-like; 4th as 2nd; 5th at the bottom of the declivous face, rather blunt. Dorsal denticles on body of petiole obsolete. Dorsum of postpetiole not forming in profile a right angle, but only a moderate and continuous curvature, lacking posteriorly a median, faintly circumscribed, triangular area. First gastric tergite with a median, black, lozenge-shaped area, surrounded by a narrow, brown or ferruginous, stripe, cutting off the black antero-lateral lobes, the borders of which bear a narrow hyaline crest. For the rest, it is like the worker of *targionii*, including the row of sparse standing hair along the posterior border of the first gastric tergite.

The small size (from incipient colony?) of this individual seems to account for most of the previously mentioned differences, which do not allow for a specific distinction between *conspersus* and *targionii*. The type specimen of *conspersus* fits surprisingly well the description of Forel's variety *variegata*, founded upon specimens collected by Bates on the Amazon river. It is quite possible that the *conspersus* holotype was likewise taken by Bates, and even that both *conspersus* and *variegata* came from the same nest series. At any rate, the latter is a strict synonym of *conspersus*. The same applies to *targionii* (= *denticulatus*), unless the soldier of the *conspersus* "variety," still unknown, should prove the contrary.

As far as the systematic placement of the present species is concerned, it is obvious that Emery's proposal (1922, l.c.) is not any longer acceptable. Hence it must be transferred from

the *spinosus*-group in the subgenus *Paracryptocerus* s. str., to the *angustus*-group in the subgenus *Harnedia*, to which it doubtless belongs.

**Paracryptocerus minutus** (Fabricius)

1804. *Cryptocerus minutus* Fabricius, Syst. Piez., p. 420.  
1867. *Cryptocerus exiguus* F. Smith, Trans. Ent. Soc. London (3) 5: 524. New Synonymy.  
1951. *Paracryptocerus minutus* Kempf, Rev. de Ent. 22: 169.

The examination of the holotype specimen of *exiguus*, a worker from Mexico, revealed at once its identity with the common and widespread *minutus*. The present specimen has a slightly, yet insignificantly, broader head, a feature which I have observed in other *minutus* specimens from Mexico. There is not the slightest doubt concerning this synonymy.

**Paracryptocerus scutulatus** (F. Smith)

1867. *Cryptocerus scutulatus* F. Smith, Trans. Ent. Soc. London (3) 5: 524.  
1867. *Cryptocerus angulosus* F. Smith, Trans. Ent. Soc. London (3) 5: 524.  
1922. *Cryptocerus scutulatus* Emery, Gen. Ins. fasc. 174, p. 311.  
1951. *Paracryptocerus scutulatus* Kempf, Stud. Ent. n. 1, p. 26.

This synonymy (*scutulatus* = soldier; *angulosus* = worker of the preceding species) has already been established by Emery from the original diagnoses. The examination of both holotypes involved confirms definitively this step.