

SYNONYMY IN THE ANT GENUS MACROMISCHA ROGER

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The heterogeneous assemblage called *Macromischa* Roger includes more than 80 named forms as it now stands. The genus is unsatisfactorily defined, merging into *Leptothorax* Mayr, and it probably represents a grand radiation of a *Leptothorax* stock in the Caribbean area, particularly in Cuba. It is also clear that much synonymy exists at species level in the group. Probably most of the synonymy involves forms that are geographical variants of single species. Another class of synonyms includes those described chiefly during the 1930's, when W. M. Wheeler, C. Aguayo and F. Santschi published a large number of forms within a brief period, resulting in some double description. I have been able to compare types of most of the forms discussed below in the Museum of Comparative Zoology (M. C. Z.). Only some of the most obvious and relatively uncomplicated synonymy is dealt with here.

Macromischa wheeleri Mann

Macromischa wheeleri Mann, 1920, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 42: 422, fig. 6, worker, female. Type loc.: Mina Carlota, Trinidad Mts., Cuba. Syntypes in U. S. National Museum.

Macromischa wheeleri subsp. *petri* Aguayo, 1931, Psyche, 38: 181, worker. Type loc.: La Vigia, Maya Jigua, Las Villas Prov., Cuba. Syntypes in M. C. Z. NEW SYNONYMY.

Of five nest series taken in the Caibarien-Maya Jigua area of north-eastern Las Villas, evidently seen by Aguayo at the time of his description, three contain workers both with and without the brief propodeal teeth supposedly diagnostic of *petri*, and all intergrades occur. Even in several toptotypical collections of *wheeleri* (leg. W. S. Creighton, G. Salt, E. O. Wilson) the propodeal angles are often distinctly developed in certain workers in nests that also contain workers with perfectly rounded propodeum. The two populations therefore differ only in the breadth of the range of variation in propodeal armament.

Macromischa darlingtoni Wheeler

Macromischa darlingtoni Wheeler, 1937, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 81: 450, worker. Type loc.: coast below Pico Turquino, Oriente, Cuba. Syntypes in M. C. Z.

Macromischa opalina Wheeler, 1937, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 81: 451, worker. Type loc.: same as for *M. darlingtoni*. Holotype in M. C. Z. NEW SYNONYMY.

I consider that the unique holotype of *M. opalina* is merely a small, lightly sculptured worker of *M. darlingtoni*. The size difference is not so great as indicated by Wheeler, and his statements about the differences in clypeal shape and scape length are contradicted by the *opalina* type itself.

Macromischa dissimilis Aguayo

Macromischa dissimilis Aguayo, 1932, Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc., 27: 220, worker. Type loc.: Buenos Aires, Trinidad Mts., Cuba. Holotype in M. C. Z.

Macromischa chloana Wheeler, 1937, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 81: 454, worker. Type loc.: Buenos Aires, Trinidad Mts., Cuba, 2500 to 3500 feet altitude. Syntypes in M. C. Z. NEW SYNONYMY.

Types compare well. The greenish infuscation of the head, nodes and gaster are seen to extend to the alitrunk in a series collected by E. O. Wilson at Naranjo, which is also in the Trinidad Mts.

Macromischa archeri (Wheeler) new status

Croesomyrmex aguayoi var. *archeri* Wheeler, 1931 (July), Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 72: 26, worker. Type loc.: San Vicente Valley, Viñales, Pinar del Rio Prov., Cuba. Syntypes in M. C. Z.

Macromischa (*Croesomyrmex*) *bierigi* Santschi, 1931 (September), Rev. Ent., Rio de Janeiro, 1: 273, fig. 7, worker. Type loc.: Viñales, Pinar del Rio Prov., Cuba. Types in Santschi Coll., Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel; not seen. NEW SYNONYMY.

Santschi's description and figure leave no doubt that his *bierigi* is the same as the var. *archeri* from the same general locality. E. O. Wilson has also collected several nest series of this form in the Vinales area and from Las Acostas, Pinar del Rio, somewhat farther west. The var. *archeri* is essentially like *M. aguayoi* Wheeler, but has the head smooth and shining above over the posterior half or third. In *aguayoi* the back of the head is subopaquely sculptured (opaquely sculptured in subsp. *natenzoni* Aguayo). *M. barroii* Aguayo is another member of this complex.

It is most convenient now to treat *archeri*, *aguayoi*, *natenzoni* and *barroii* arbitrarily as species. But it seems likely, when collections from the mountains of Pinar del Rio are more complete, that these four close allopatric forms will prove to be only local populations of a single variable species.

Make plans now to attend the
42nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
in Miami on September 10 and 11.