

## ***Typhlomyrmex meire*, a remarkable new species endemic to Southern Bahia, Brazil (Formicidae: Ectatomminae)**

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### **Abstract**

The worker, queen and male of the ant *Typhlomyrmex meire* Lacau, Villemant & Delabie **new species** (Ectatomminae: Typhlomyrmecini) are described from the Brazilian Atlantic rainforest. This endemic species from southern Bahia is easily distinguished from all other members of the genus by the peculiar morphology of mandibles and the reduction of the antennal segments observed in both sexes. We provide a partial redefinition of the genus diagnosis taking into account the antennal structure of the new species. A new identification key for workers is provided.

**Key words:** Formicidae, Ectatomminae, Typhlomyrmecini, *Typhlomyrmex* diagnosis, identification key, *Typhlomyrmex meire* **new species**, Brazil

### **Introduction**

*Typhlomyrmex* Mayr, 1862 (Formicidae: Ectatomminae: Typhlomyrmecini) is a small genus of Neotropical ants, which included six valid species and one *nomen nudum* prior to this report (Brown, 1965; Kempf, 1972; Brandão 1991; Bolton, 1995 and 2003). It is today the single genus of the tribe Typhlomyrmecini Emery, 1911, since *Prionopelta* Mayr, 1866 and *Rhopalopone* Emery, 1897 (junior synonym of *Gnamptogenys*) have been combined in the Amblyoponini (Brown, 1960) and Ectatommini (Brown, 1958), respectively. In his *Typhlomyrmex* revision, Brown (1965) described a new species, *T. prolatus*, and suggested that the taxon *pusillus* certainly included several species. The genus is morphologically homogenous, but there is interspecific variation in petiole shape, head shape, and body size (Brown, 1965; Lacau *et al.*, unpublished data). The terricolous species are the small-