



Ants of the genus *Lordomyrma* Emery (1) Generic synonymy, composition and distribution, with notes on *Ancyridris* Wheeler and *Cyphoidris* Weber (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae)

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Abstract

Synonymy under *Lordomyrma* of *Prodicroaspis* Emery and *Promeranoplus* Emery is reviewed. *Lordomyrma* currently comprises 25 named taxa, with two junior synonyms. Many undescribed species are known. Relative levels of species richness and morphological diversity are compared for the SE Asian/Japanese, Australian, Melanesian, New Caledonian and Fijian *Lordomyrma* faunas. Twelve species, including examples of the related genera *Ancyridris* and *Cyphoidris* are illustrated. The need for conservation and study of the remarkable, threatened ant faunas of New Caledonia, New Guinea and Fiji is discussed, and the relative positions of *Ancyridris* and *Cyphoidris* reviewed.

Key words: Formicidae, evolution, speciation, species flocks, systematics, Japan, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji, Africa

Introduction

Twenty-five valid named species are recognized here in the wonderfully diverse myrmicine genus *Lordomyrma* Emery. Characteristics of these and approximately 40 undescribed species represented in the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) and elsewhere are discussed to evaluate the status of the genus, and to justify the synonymy under *Lordomyrma* of the nominal New Caledonian genera *Prodicroaspis* Emery and *Promeranoplus* Emery. The New Guinean genus *Ancyridris* and the Afrotropical *Cyphoidris* Weber are discussed as putative relatives of *Lordomyrma*. This is the introductory paper of a series monographing *Lordomyrma*.

Twelve taxa are illustrated using Extended Focus (Z stack) macrophotographic Images (EFIs) executed by the author using a stand-mounted Olympus E330 digital SLR camera fitted with Olympus OM series bellows and a Zuiko 38mm 3.5 macro lens, above a custom-built electronically-controlled motorized stepper-stage. Images were assembled using 'Combine-Z' software. HW in the figure captions = 'Head Width across eyes'; WL is the conventional 'Weber's Length' of the mesosoma in lateral view.

Generic synonymy

Lordomyrma Emery, 1897: 591. Type species (designated by Wheeler, 1911): *L. furcifera* Emery, 1897: 591 (Lemien, PAPUA NEW GUINEA).

= *Prodicroaspis* Emery, 1914: 414. Type species (by monotypy): *P. sarasini* Emery, 1914: 414 (Mt Ignambi, NEW CALEDONIA). (Junior Synonym of *Lordomyrma*, Bolton, 1994: 106).