A taxonomic revision of the *Meranoplus* F. Smith of Madagascar (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae) with keys to species and diagnosis of the males

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ABSTRACT

The species-level taxonomy of the ant genus *Meranoplus* F. Smith from Madagascar is revised. Two new species, *M. cryptomys* sp. n. and *sylvarius* sp. n. are described from workers and queens; *M. mayri* Forel, 1910, and *M. radamae* Forel, 1891, are redescribed, and queens and males for these two species are described for the first time. The first diagnosis of *Meranoplus* males for any biogeographic region is provided based on Malagasy species. Illustrated keys to all known Malagasy castes and species are presented. Diagnoses are given for two species groups: the *M. mayri* group and the *M. nanus* group. The diagnosis of the *M. nanus* species group from Bolton (1981) is thereby expanded with six new characters. Two species are known from the *M. mayri* species group and seven described species are known for the *M. nanus* species group, including the two new species described herein. The mouthparts, genitalia, and all castes, where known, of Malagasy *Meranoplus* are illustrated.

Keywords: genitalia, gynes, Malagasy region, Meranoplini, species groups, wing venation