



A review of the Nearctic *Odontomachus* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Ponerinae) with a treatment of the males

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Abstract

The ant genus *Odontomachus* Latreille in the United States is reviewed. Six species are treated: *O. brunneus* (Patton), *O. clarus* Roger, *O. desertorum* Wheeler **stat. nov.**, *O. relictus* Deyrup and Cover, *O. ruginodis* M.R. Smith, and *O. haematodus* (Linnaeus), a new record for North America. The spread of *O. haematodus* is documented, and its identity is clarified. The genus is diagnosed for species in the Nearctic region for all castes, and worker- and male-based keys are presented. The workers and males of all six species are described and figured, including the first male descriptions for *O. haematodus* and *O. desertorum*. This represents the first study of species-level variation in *Odontomachus* male genitalia, and one of the first of such studies of the Ponerinae for any biogeographic region. A discussion of the utility of the male sex for *Odontomachus* taxonomy is provided.

Key words: taxonomy, trap-jaw ants, alien species, invasive, identification, keys, genitalia

Introduction

Trap-jaw ants in the genus *Odontomachus* Latreille (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Ponerinae) are large, conspicuous ants that can be recognized by the peculiar shape of the head, long linear mandibles, large tapering petiole, and obvious sting. The highly specialized head morphology constitutes a trap-jaw mechanism that the ants use primarily for catching prey (Patek et al. 2006). Males are more generalized and may be recognized in the Nearctic

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APPENDIX 1. Specimen records of *O. desertorum* and *O. haematodus* examined.

***Odontomachus desertorum*. United States: Arizona:** Maricopa Co., Mesa nr. McDowell & Val Vista, 33.46833 -111.75667, 22 June 2005, J. Weser, desert backyard, under bushes, foraging under bushes (2 workers, 2 males) [MCZC]; Pima Co., Tuscon, Near University of Arizona, 32.23210 -110.95538, 1 August 1951(1 male) [LACM]. **Mexico: Sonora:** R. Yaqui, Hwy 15, 27.366667 N -110.166667 W, +/- 3km, 10 m elevation 7.viii.1985 Ginter Ekis coll. (1male) [UCDC]; 9 km NNE Punta Narragansett, Isla Tiburón, 28 deg 57' N 112 deg 13' W, 5 m elev. 15.xii.1997 P.S. Ward#13465-2, ex spider middens under stone, Sonoran desert (3 workers) [UCDC]

***Odontomachus haematodus*. United States: Alabama:** Baldwin Co.: Bay Minette, 14 June 2003, J. Forster (2 workers) [AUEM]; Blakeley Park, 30°43'55"N 87°55'08"W, 7 Aug. 2013, J.A. MacGown, nest in oak-magnolia litter (1 worker) [MEM]; same date except, 30°43'57"N 87°54'46"W, 7 Aug. 2013, J.A. MacGown, nest in litter at base of pine tree in mixed pine hardwood forest (1 dealate queen, 39 workers) [MEM], same data except, 30°44'50"N 87°55'23"W, 8 Aug. 2013, at peanut butter bait on Quercus sp. in bottomland forest (1 worker) [MEM]; Bon Secour NWR, H. Richter (1 worker) [MEM], same data except, 30°13'43"N 87°49'51"W, 21 June 2001, J.A. MacGown, blacklight and MV lamp in foredunes (1 male) [MEM], same data except, 30°13'43"N 87°49'51"W, 29 March 2007, J.A. MacGown, J.G. Hill, in foredunes (12 workers) [MEM], same data except, 30°13'43"N 87°49'51"W, 3 April 2005, J.A. MacGown, under rotting log under scrub oak tree in foredunes (1 worker) [MEM], same data except, 30°14'10"N 87°49'49"W, J.A. MacGown, J.G. Hill, in hind dunes (1 worker) [MEM], same data except, 30°14'48"N 87°49'45"W, 3 April 2005, J.A. MacGown (8 workers) [MEM]; Byrnes Lake, 11 Oct. 2001, J.McCredie (1 worker) [MEM]; Daphne, Village Point Park, 12 June 2012, H. Richter (4 workers) [MEM]; Weeks Bay NERR, 30°24'58"N 87°49'10"W, 4 Aug. 2000, R.L. Brown, blacklight/boxtrap in pitcher plant bog, William H. Cross Expedition (2 males) [MEM], same data except, 3 Aug. 2000, T.L. Schiefer, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (5 males) [MEM]; Weeks Bay NERR, 30°25'03"N 87°49'50"W, 1 Aug. 2000, D.M. Pollock, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (1 male) [MEM], same data except, 1 Aug. 2000, J.A. MacGown, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (1 male) [MEM], same data except, 1 Aug. 2000, T.L. Schiefer, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (5 males) [MEM], same data except, 4 Aug. 2000, 4 Aug. 2000, J.A. MacGown, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (1 male) [MEM], same data except, 4 Aug. 2000, R.L. Brown, at tree seep in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (4 workers) [MEM], same data except, 4 Aug. 2000, T.L. Schiefer, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (1 male) [MEM], same data except, 5 Aug. 2000, T.L. Schiefer, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (3 males) [MEM], same data except, 6 Aug. 2000, T.L. Schiefer, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (1 male) [MEM], same data except, 1-8 Aug. 2000, J.A. MacGown, B. Smith, pitfall traps in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition, (54 workers) [MEM], same data except, 20 June 2001, J.A. MacGown, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (3 males) [MEM], same data except, 20 June 2001, T.L. Schiefer blacklight & M.V. lamp in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (6 males) [MEM], same data except, 23 June 2001, J.A. MacGown, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (3 males) [MEM], same data except, 23 June 2001, J.A. MacGown, on mushroom on tree in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (2 workers) [MEM], same data except, 25 June 2001, T.L. Schiefer, blacklight trap in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition (1 male) [MEM], same data except, 21-25 June 2001, J.A. MacGown, pitfall traps in mixed forest near estuary, W.H. Cross Expedition, (2 workers) [MEM], same data except, 6 April 2003, R.L. Brown, bottomland marsh (7 workers) [MEM], same data except, 2 April 2005, J.A. MacGown, under rotting log in mixed forest near estuary (1 dealate queen, 43 workers) [MEM], same data except, 2 April 2005 (25 workers) [MEM], J.A. MacGown, under rotting log in mixed forest near estuary (1 dealate queen, 43 workers) [MEM], same data except, 3 April 2005, R.L. Brown, under bark of Pinus. sp. stump in mixed forest near estuary (2 workers) [MEM]; Weeks Bay NERR, 30°25'08"N 87°49'05"W, 13 April 2013, Jaeger, colony in tree hole at edge of parking log and pitcher plant bog (4 workers) [MEM]; Weeks Bay NERR, 30°25'08"N 87°49'50"W, 13 April 2013, C. Jaeger, colony under PVC piping at dormitory at edge of mixed estuarine forest (3 workers) [MEM]; no locality data, May, R. Wingard, ex lawn (1worker) [AUEM], no locality data, June, R. Wingard, ex lawn (1worker) [AUEM], no locality data, summer, E. Benson (1 worker) [AUEM]. **Escambia Co.:** 1.25 mi NW of Atmore, 31°01'52"N 87°30'42"W, 1-22 July 2013, A. Van Hoogmoed, Lindgren Funnel trap with ethanol/Alpha pinene UHR Lure (1 dealate queen, 1 alate

queen, 1 male) [MEM]. *Mobile Co.*: Mobile, 1 June 1956 [no collector information] (3 workers) [USNM]; Mobile, 22 March 2003, T. Toliver (2 workers) [AUEM]; Mobile, 20 May 1974, E.C. Ward, (2 workers) [AUEM]; Mobile, July 2007, C. Hesselein, (2 workers) [AUEM]; Mobile, 13 June 2003, J. Forster (4 workers) [AUEM]; Mobile, 30°34'39"N 88°12'09"W, 9 July 2013, G. Kalb, colony in rotted pecan stump in yard in residential neighborhood (3 workers) [MEM]; Mobile, 30°42'43"N 88°07'44"W, 12 June-2 July 2013, A. Van Hoogmoed, Lindgren funnel trap (1 alate queen) [MEM]; Prichard, Chickasobogue Park, 28 June 2012, H. Richter, base of dead pine tree (2 workers) [MEM]; Theodore, 20 June 2012, Richter, nest at base of tree (1 worker) [MEM]. **Florida:** *Escambia Co.*: Perdido Bay Golf Club, N30 19.553' W087 25.584, 11 Nov. 2005, L.R. Davis, Jr., in litter at base of pine tree (1 worker, 1 male) [Lloyd Davis private collection]. **Louisiana:** *Orleans Parish*: New Orleans, Audubon Zoo, 25 Sept. 2009, F. Larabee (1 worker) [MEM]. **Mississippi:** *Greene Co.*: Deaton Preserve, 31°00'04"N 88°42'08"W, 12 May 2006, J.A. MacGown, J.G. Hill, nest in soil and wood at base of thin-leaved *Quercus* sp. (30 workers) [MEM]. *Jackson Co.*: 2 mi NNE Call Town, 30°31'27"N 88°32'34"W, 20 June-25 July 2006, D.W. Haynes, Lindgren funnel trap baited with Typosan (1 worker) [MEM]; 3 km W Moss Point, 30°24'43"N 88°33'58"W, 29 Oct. 2009, J. Benigno (17 workers) [MEM]; Forts Lake Rd. X I-10, 88.41645 N 30.52996W, 12 Sept. 2007, S. Chandler (3 workers) [MEM]; Grand Bay Savanna, 30°25'39"N 88°25'30"W, 1 May 2004, J.G. Hill, coastal savannah (2 workers) [MEM]; Grand Bay Savanna, 30°22'07"N 88°26'21"W, 1 May 2004, J.A. MacGown, in soil on shell midden (2 workers) [MEM]; Moss Point, 30°27'04"N 88°32'52"W, 1 Oct. 2013, A. Nelson, colony in leaf litter at base of pecan tree in residential neighborhood (3 workers) [MEM]; Moss Point, T6S R5W Sec. 6, 14 Dec. 2002, J.G. Hill (3 workers) [MEM]; Moss Point, 19 May 2010, C. Whittington, (1 worker) [MEM]; Pascagoula, 30°31'13"N 88°32'31"W, 9 Sept. 2013, S. Jones, in yard in residential neighborhood (1 worker) [MEM]; Pascagoula, 30°21'35"N 88°31'07"W, 22 Sept. 2000, M. Riggins (5 workers) [MEM]; [locality unknown], 3 Nov. 2008, S. Pendleton (6 workers) [MEM]; 1.5 mi NE Escatawpa, 30°27'23"N 88°31'21"W, 27 April-16 May 2006, D.W. Haynes, Lindgren funnel trap baited with Typosan (1 alate queen) [MEM].