



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3985.2.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:A80CDEA9-32B8-4F10-AD87-07CB45ED75DB>

A redescription of the ant mimicking spider *Myrmecium gounellei* (Araneae: Corinnidae, Castianeirinae), with notes on the genus

YURI M. MARUSIK^{1,2}, MIKHAIL M. OMELKO^{3,4} & SEPPO KOPONEN⁵

¹Institute for Biological Problems of the North, Portovaya Street 18, Magadan 685000, Russia. E-mail: yurmar@mail.ru

²Department of Zoology & Entomology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa

³Gornotaezhnaya Station FEB RAS, Gornotaezhnoe Vil., Ussuriyski Dist., Primorski Krai 692533, Russia.

E-mail: omelkom@gmail.com

⁴Far Eastern Federal University, Sukhanova 8, Vladivostok 690950, Russia

⁵Zoological Museum, University of Turku, FI-20014 Turku, Finland

Myrmecium Latreille, 1824 is a relatively large genus of Castianeirinae with 16 species, distributed exclusively in the Neotropics (WSC 2015). Although this genus is rather well known as a good example of ant mimicking spiders, its taxonomy is very poorly studied. Two of its species are described based on unknown sex; one species is described based on a juvenile; eight species are known based on a single sex: for seven, only females are known, and for one, only a male is known (Platnick 2014). Eleven species are known from a single record, and two species were never illustrated. The latest taxonomic paper dealing with *Myrmecium* was published more than 60 years ago by Camargo (1953). Although both sexes are known for six species of *Myrmecium*, the male palp and female epigyne are illustrated for three species only. The male palp is relatively well illustrated for the type species of the genus, *M. rufum* Latreille, 1824 (Camargo 1953). Somatic characters are illustrated also only for *M. rufum* (Simon 1897).

While looking through diverse spider material in the Zoological Museum of the University of Turku, we found a vial with a handwritten label "*Myrmecium gounellei* M Paris". It is most likely that these specimens are syntypes borrowed by P.T. Lehtinen from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle from Paris. Since no detailed illustrations of somatic characters or/and copulatory organs are available for any *Myrmecium* species, and an endogyne for this genus was never illustrated, we decided to redescribe *M. gounellei*.

Material and methods

Photographs were taken in dishes of different sizes with paraffin at the bottom. Specimens were photographed using an Olympus Camedia E-520 camera attached to an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope at the Zoological Museum, University of Turku. Digital images were prepared using CombineZP image stacking software (<http://www.hadleyweb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>). Illustrations of the epigyne were made after maceration in 20% potassium hydroxide aqueous solution and exposure for a few minutes in an alcohol/water solution of Chlorazol Black. Length of leg segments was measured on the dorsal side. All measurements are given in millimeters.

Taxonomic survey

Myrmecium Latreille, 1824

Type species *M. rufum* Latreille, 1824 from Brazil (by monotypy).

Note. *Myrmecium* is the oldest genus name in the Corinnidae, described 16 years earlier than *Corinna* C.L. Koch, 1841.

Diagnosis. *Myrmecium* is similar to *Sphecotypus* O.P.-Cambridge, 1895, a genus known from the Neotropics and Southeast Asia, in having deep constrictions on a narrowed carapace, but can be easily distinguished from this genus and other Castianeirinae by having three deep prosomal constrictions (one between coxae II and III, one between III and IV,