

Revision of the myrmicine ants of the *Adelomyrmex* genus-group (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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ABSTRACT

A revision of the myrmicinae ants of the *Adelomyrmex* genus-group is made. This group is recognized in workers and females by a combination of: antennae of 12 segments with club of 2 segments, median portion of clypeus forming a longitudinal platform and the lamelliform setae in the internal border of the mandibles. This last trait, unknown in other ants, is proposed as autapomorphy for the *Adelomyrmex* genus-group. The group contains two genera, *Adelomyrmex* Emery, 1897 (Neotropics, New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa) and *Baracidris* Bolton, 1981 (Africa), with 26 species (12 described as new) as follows: *Adelomyrmex betoi* Fernández **sp.n.** (México); *A. biroi* Emery, 1897 (New Guinea), *A. boltoni* Fernández **sp.n.** (Brazil and Paraguay); *A. brevispinosus* Fernández, 2003 (México and Costa Rica); *A. costatus* Fernández **sp.n.** (Colombia); *A. cristiani* Fernández **sp.n.** (Colombia); *A. foveolatus* Fernández, 2003 (Costa Rica); *A. grandis* Fernández **sp.n.** (Colombia); *A. hirsutus* Mann, 1921 (Fiji Islands); *A. laevigatus* MacKay, 2003 (Costa Rica); *A. longinodus* Fernández & Brandão **sp.n.** (Brazil); *A. longinoi* Fernández **sp.n.** (México and Costa Rica); *A. mackayi* Fernández **sp.n.** (México); *A. micans* Fernández, 2003 (México); *A. microps* Fernández, 2003 (Costa Rica); *A. minimus* Fernández, 2003 (Costa Rica); *A. myops* (Wheeler, 1910) (Guatemala to Colombia); *A. robustus* Fernández **sp.n.** (México); *A. samoanus* Wilson & Taylor, 1967 (Samoa); *A. silvestrii* (Menozzi, 1931) (Mesoamerica); *A. striatus* Fernández **sp.n.** (Brazil); *A. tristani* (Menozzi, 1931) (México to Colombia); *A. vaderi* Fernández **sp.n.** (Colombia); *Baracidris meketra* Bolton, 1981 (Nigeria), *B. pilosa* Fernández **sp.n.** (Kenya and Gabon); *B. sita* Bolton, 1981 (Gabon). A key to workers of genera and all species is provided, with illustrations of most of them. The first queen for American *Adelomyrmex* and the first male of *Adelomyrmex* are described. The distribution of the group suggests an ancestor that lived in Gondwana before the splitting off of Africa and also suggests that ants could have originated earlier than the known fossil record.

Key words: Taxonomy, identification, key, Formicidae, Myrmicinae, *Adelomyrmex* genus-group

INTRODUCTION

Myrmicinae is the most diverse ant subfamily in genera and species (Bolton, 1995). This diversity is a partial explanation of the inadequate understanding of the phylogenetic rela-