

## Rediscovery of a fossil dolichoderine ant lineage (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Dolichoderinae) and a description of a new genus from South America

ALEXANDER L. WILD<sup>1</sup> & FABIANA CUEZZO<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Entomology, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA 95616, U.S.A.; [alwild@ucdavis.edu](mailto:alwild@ucdavis.edu)

<sup>2</sup>CONICET - INSUE. Fac. de Ciencias Naturales e IML. Miguel Lillo 205. T4000JFE - San Miguel de Tucumán, ARGENTINA

### Abstract

We describe a new genus, *Gracilidris* Wild & Cuzzo **gen. nov.**, and a new species, *G. pombero* Wild and Cuzzo **sp. nov.**, of dolichoderine ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Dolichoderinae) from Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina based on the worker caste. These ants are morphologically similar to the extinct *Gracilidris humilioides* (Wilson 1985) **comb. nov.**, known from a single Dominican amber fossil, that we redescribe and transfer to *Gracilidris* from *Linepithema* Mayr.

**Key words:** Formicidae, taxonomy, chaco, cerrado, neotropics

### Introduction

The known richness of the South American ant fauna has increased substantially over the past two decades following the development of specialized collecting protocols (e.g., Agosti et al. 2000). Tropical wet forests have received the bulk of the recent sampling effort, but arid and semi-arid areas of South America remain relatively undersampled. These drier habitats have potential to yield a similar increase in ant diversity, including some older lineages of substantial phylogenetic importance. Here we report one such example, a discovery of extant populations of an undescribed dolichoderine taxon known previously from a single fossil specimen in Dominican Amber. In the present paper we describe a new genus and a new extant species based on the worker caste and propose a new combination for the fossil species *Linepithema humilioides* (Wilson).