



New species of Myrmicine ants from Western Australia (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Abstract

Three new species belonging to the ant subfamily Myrmicinae are described from Western Australia. *Epopostruma inornata* is the nineteenth species known for this Australian genus. It has been collected only once. *Mayriella occidua* is the eighth species of this small genus, and the sixth from Australia. It is the first species from Western Australia and extends the known distribution of the genus into south-western Australia. *Mesostruma spinosa* is the fifth species, out of nine known for the genus, to be found in Western Australia. It has been collected only once.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Myrmicinae, *Epopostruma*, *Mayriella*, *Mesostruma*, taxonomy, new species, Australia

Introduction

It is an interesting, and slightly frustrating, fact that no matter how thoroughly a taxonomic revision is undertaken, shortly after its publication any number of additional species will surface. Many of these will be discovered by users of the revision examining local material that was not available to the reviser, and would not have been examined in detail if not for the motivation provided by the revision being published. This is just the case here, where three additional species have turned up, two shortly after a revision appeared and another while a revision was still in press. I take the opportunity to describe these additional species here, both to expand our understanding of the Australian fauna, and also so these taxa can be referred to in an upcoming guide to the ant fauna of the south-west botanic province of Western Australia (B. Heterick, pers. comm.).

Epopostruma Forel was recently revised by Shattuck (2000). He recognised 18 species, 15 of which were described as new, with seven of the new species being known from 2 or fewer collections. This would indicate that these ants are rarely encountered and that the discovery of additional species should be expected for some time to come. This has proven to be the case with an additional new species, described below, being found soon after Shattuck's (2000) publication appeared. It is the sixth species known from Western Australia (out of 19 known for the genus).

Mayriella Forel is a small genus restricted to the Indo-Australian region. It was recently revised by Shattuck and Barnett (2007), who recognised seven species, four of which are known from Australia. Recently an additional species was collected in Western Australia, the first record of the genus from this region. An examination of the single available specimen revealed that it represents an additional species of this genus, the eighth worldwide and fifth from Australia. This new species is described here, and a key to the Australian fauna is provided.

Mesostruma Brown was revised by Shattuck (2000), who recognised eight species in the genus. A ninth species is described here, the fifth known from Western Australia. This species, like several others in the