



A first look at the phylogeny of the Myrmarachninae, with rediscovery and redescription of the type species of *Myrmarachne* (Araneae: Salticidae)

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Abstract

Myrmarachne melanocephala MacLeay, 1839, type species of the genus *Myrmarachne* MacLeay, 1839, is rediscovered and redescribed, and a neotype is here designated. Five **new synonyms** of *M. melanocephala* are proposed: *M. contracta* (Karsch, 1880) [lectotype here designated], *M. providens* (Peckham & Peckham, 1892), *M. ramosa* Badcock, 1918, *M. albicurata* Badcock, 1918, and *M. lateralis* Badcock, 1918. *Myrmarachne melanocephala* is shown to be a widespread species in southern Asia that mimics the ant *Tetraponera rufonigra* (Jerdon). *Myrmarachne christae* (Prószyński, 2001) and *Myrmarachne galianoae* (Prószyński, 2001) are transferred from *Damoetas*, **new combinations**. The latter results in a homonym with *Myrmarachne galianoae* Cutler, 1981: we rename the species *Myrmarachne mariaelenae* Edwards & Benjamin, **replacement name**. Further characterization of the species groups of *Myrmarachne* is presented, related genera are discussed, and a preliminary phylogeny of the Myrmarachninae is given.

Key words: Myrmarachninae, new combination, new name, new synonym, phylogeny, species groups, *Belippo*, *Bocus*, *Damoetas*, *Judalana*, *Ligonipes*, *Panachraesta*, *Rhombonotus*