



Revisionary studies on the attine ant genus *Trachymyrmex* Forel. Part 3: The Jamaicensis group (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Abstract

We hereby revise the Jamaicensis group of species of *Trachymyrmex* (Myrmicinae: Attini), as the third part of our taxonomic revisionary studies on this fungus-growing ant genus. The species group we deal with here includes six taxa that share exclusively the antennal scrobes always reaching the posterior margin of the head and ending as two separate projections arising from the preocular and frontal carinae, giving the scrobe posterior region an “opened” appearance and an angular profile to the posterolateral corners, in frontal view. The Jamaicensis group is composed of *Trachymyrmex atlanticus* n. sp. (eastern Brazil), *Trachymyrmex haytianus* Wheeler & Mann, 1914 n. st. (Haiti, Jamaica), *Trachymyrmex isthmicus* Santschi, 1931 (Colombia, Ecuador, Panama), *Trachymyrmex ixodus* n. sp. (northern Brazil, Suriname), *Trachymyrmex jamaicensis* (André, 1893) (Caribbean islands and southern USA), its synonyms (*Trachymyrmex sharpii* Forel, 1893; *Trachymyrmex maritimus* Wheeler, 1905 n. syn.; *Trachymyrmex jamaicensis* var. *frontalis* Santschi, 1925 n. syn., and *Trachymyrmex jamaicensis cubaensis* Wheeler, 1937 n. syn.), and *Trachymyrmex zeteki* Weber, 1940 (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama). *Trachymyrmex jamaicensis antiguensis* Weber, 1938 is excluded from the Jamaicensis species group because it belongs to the *Trachymyrmex* Urichi species group. The only known *Trachymyrmex* fossil, *T. primaevus* Baroni Urbani, 1980, from the Dominican amber, does not belong to the Jamaicensis species group, as hypothesized earlier.

Key words: Revision, Formicidae, *Trachymyrmex*

Introduction

In the third part of our taxonomic studies on the New World fungus-growing *Trachymyrmex* ants, we hereby revise a relatively small assemblage of six species, that we call the Jamaicensis group. In Kempf’s sketches of a *Trachymyrmex* revision deposited in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, this group of species was included in the Urichi species group. Like the species that will be treated in the next papers of the series, that belong to the Cornetzi, Urichi and Septentrionalis groups, taxa in the Jamaicensis group lack the main diagnostic characters of the Opulentus and Iheringi groups, respectively the fine silky pubescence on tergum I of gaster and hind femora, and the basal lobe on the antennal scapes (Mayhé-Nunes & Brandão 2002, 2005).

The antennal scrobes of females in species of the Jamaicensis group always reach the posterior margin of the head and end as two separated projections arising from the subparallel preocular and frontal carinae, giving to the scrobe posterior region an “opened” appearance and an angular profile to the posterolateral corners, in frontal view (Fig. 5). Although species in the Iheringi group also may present “opened scrobes,” both or at least one of the carinae never attain the posterolateral corners. Two species in the Opulentus group, *T. com-*