



New species of Central American *Rhopalothrix* Mayr, 1870 (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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Abstract

The ant genus *Rhopalothrix* is a rare inhabitant of wet forest leaf litter and soil. We propose a monophyletic *R. isthmica* clade that is restricted to the Neotropics, contains most of the species in the genus, and has its center of abundance and diversity in Central America. Thirteen species are recognized in the *R. isthmica* clade, of which eight are described as new and three are redescribed. A key to species in the *R. isthmica* clade is provided, and the following eight new species are described: *R. andersoni* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.**, *R. apertor* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.**, *R. atitlanica* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.**, *R. megisthmica* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.**, *R. nubilosa* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.**, *R. subspatulata* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.**, *R. therion* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.**, and *R. triumphalis* Longino & Boudinot, **sp. nov.** Queens are newly associated with workers for three Central American species. New synonymy is proposed for *Rhopalothrix plaumanni* Brown & Kempf, 1960 = *R. acutipilis* Kempf, 1962, **syn. nov.**

Key words: biodiversity, taxonomy, Myrmicinae, Basicerotini, wing venation