



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3635.4.1>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:9DB4A023-F9B4-4257-900B-F672F93CD845>

A taxonomic revision of the *Meranoplus* F. Smith of Madagascar (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae) with keys to species and diagnosis of the males

BRENDON E. BOUDINOT & BRIAN L. FISHER

55 Music Concourse Drive,

San Francisco, CA 94118, U.S.A.

Corresponding author: boudinotb@gmail.com

Table of contents

ABSTRACT	301
INTRODUCTION	302
MATERIALS AND METHODS	302
Measurements	304
Indices	304
Repositories	306
SYNOPSIS OF MALAGASY SPECIES	306
DIAGNOSIS OF MALAGASY <i>MERANOPLUS</i> MALES	306
SPECIES GROUPS	307
Diagnosis of the <i>M. mayri</i> species group (worker)	311
Diagnosis of the <i>M. nanus</i> species group (worker)	312
KEY TO SPECIES	312
Key to workers	312
Key to queens	314
Key to males	316
SPECIES ACCOUNTS	316
<i>Meranoplus cryptomys</i> new species	316
<i>Meranoplus mayri</i> Forel, 1910	320
<i>Meranoplus radamae</i> Forel, 1891	327
<i>Meranoplus sylvarius</i> new species	333
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	337
REFERENCES	338

ABSTRACT

The species-level taxonomy of the ant genus *Meranoplus* F. Smith from Madagascar is revised. Two new species, *M. cryptomys* **sp. n.** and *sylvarius* **sp. n.** are described from workers and queens; *M. mayri* Forel, 1910, and *M. radamae* Forel, 1891, are redescribed, and queens and males for these two species are described for the first time. The first diagnosis of *Meranoplus* males for any biogeographic region is provided based on Malagasy species. Illustrated keys to all known Malagasy castes and species are presented. Diagnoses are given for two species groups: the *M. mayri* group and the *M. nanus* group. The diagnosis of the *M. nanus* species group from Bolton (1981) is thereby expanded with six new characters. Two species are known from the *M. mayri* species group and seven described species are known for the *M. nanus* species group, including the two new species described herein. The mouthparts, genitalia, and all castes, where known, of Malagasy *Meranoplus* are illustrated.

Keywords: genitalia, gynes, Malagasy region, Meranoplini, species groups, wing venation