

PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE RÈGLES FOR THE NAMES *FORMICA* LINNAEUS, 1758, AND *CAMPONOTUS* MAYR, 1861 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA)

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Linnaeus (1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10a) 1 : 579) founded the genus *Formica* for a number of species of ants, including *Formica rufa* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Formica herculeana* Linnaeus, 1758. Latreille (1810, *Consid. génér.* : 437) cited the latter species as the type of the genus. This citation is valid although the name *Formica herculeana* is followed by the words "ejusdem *rufa*," indicating that *Formica rufa* was also a member of the genus. Curtis (1839, *Brit. Ent.* 16 : plate 752) designated *Formica rufa* as the type and his designation has been universally followed by hymenopterists. Meanwhile, *Formica herculeana* is now placed in the genus *Camponotus* Mayr (1861, *Europ. Formicid.* : 35) (type *Formica ligniperda* Latreille, 1802, by designation of Bingham, 1903, *Faun. Brit. India*, Hym. 2 : 347).

Camponotus and *Formica* in the generally accepted sense are both very large genera of world-wide distribution and any change in their generic nomenclature would cause great confusion.

We are of the opinion that it is highly desirable that in the exercise of the plenary power conferred on them by the International Zoological Congress, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should as soon as possible take the steps laid down by the Congress for the promulgation of an *Opinion* to the following effect :—

The names *Formica* Linnaeus, 1758 (type *Formica rufa* Linnaeus, 1758) and *Camponotus* Mayr, 1861 (type *Formica ligniperda* Latreille, 1802) be added to the *Official List of Generic Names*. The designation by Latreille (1810) of *Formica herculeana* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type of *Formica* is therefore to be set aside and the designation by Curtis (1839) of *Formica rufa* Linnaeus, 1758, is to be upheld.^{10, 11}

¹⁰ See footnote 4 above.

¹¹ *Supplementary Note by the Secretary to the International Commission* : In view of the clarification of the Commission's *Opinion* 11 given in *Opinion* 136 (which was not published at the time when the present application was drawn up), the difficulties in regard to *Formica* Linnaeus, 1758, discussed in that application have disappeared, for under *Opinion* 136 Latreille did not in 1810 make a valid designation of the type of *Formica* Linnaeus. In consequence the designation by Curtis (1839) of *Formica rufa* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type of that genus is valid. Thus, the names *Formica* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Camponotus* Mayr, 1861, can now be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, without the prior use by the Commission of their plenary powers to suspend the *Règles Internationales*. (int'd.) F.H. 11th August 1944.