

An Additional Annotated List of the Ants of Mississippi (Hym.: Formicidae).*

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In a previous article (Ent. News, Vol. 42 pp. 16-24, 1931) 20 species of ants were recorded for Mississippi. This article lists 9 additional species, making a total of 135 for the state.

It is not only to be noted that all of the species given here fall within the sub-family *Myrmicinae* but furthermore that the majority of them belong to the genus *Strumigenys*. Of the 16 species recorded for North America in my recent revisionary paper, (Annals Ent. Soc. Amer., Vol. 24, pp. 686-710, 1931), approximately 63 per cent have been taken in Mississippi.

An especially interesting record is that of *Myrmica punctiventris pinctorum*, the second species of *Myrmica* to be recorded for the state, which is at this time represented in our collection by a single specimen.

127. *STRUMIGENYS* (C.) *MEMBRANIFERA* subsp. *SIMILLIMA* Emery. Avera (H. Dietrich and E. Lott), Waynesboro (G. L. Bond), West Point (M. R. Smith and E. E. Byrd), Belzoni (G. W. Haug), Columbus and Greenwood (J. W. Ward).

This exceedingly small (1.5 mm.) but very distinct species is recorded in the United States for the first time, having been previously known only from the Virgin Islands. It is one of the most common species of *Strumigenys* in Mississippi. Colonies are usually found in the soil beneath objects lying on the surface, but in one instance a colony was found in the woodwork of an old, deserted house.

The ant can readily be distinguished by the following characters: (1) the very distinct rectangular shape of its head anteriorly; (2) the very angular antennal scapes; (3) the strongly marginate prothorax; and (4) the almost complete absence of scale-like hairs on the body except for the presence of two short, erect, club-like hairs on the vertex of the head.

128. *STRUMIGENYS* (C.) *ANGULATA* M. R. Smith. Louis-

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ville (M. R. Smith). This is one of our largest species of *Strumigenys* (2-2.5 mm.). At the present time *Strumigenys angulata* is represented in our collections by 14 specimens, all of which were collected from a rotten log in a rather dense woodland thicket.

The species is most likely to be mistaken for *Strumigenys pergandei* Emery, which it closely resembles. From this species it can be distinguished by the characters here listed: (1) the very rectangular head anteriorly; (2) the shorter, more robust, and more angular antennal scapes; and (3) the differently toothed mandibles.

129. *STRUMIGENYS* (S.) *LOUISIANAE* subsp. *LATICEPHALA* M. R. Smith. Longview (M. R. Smith), Louisville (M. R. Smith), West Point (E. E. Byrd), Ripley (S. W. Simmons). Landon, Mississippi (G. W. Haug), and Decatur, Alabama (W. S. Creighton).

This subspecies is one of the most common *Strumigenys* in the state. Colonies have been observed which contained as many as 120 workers. Nests are usually constructed in the soil beneath objects lying on the surface. Winged males have been taken at dates ranging from June 20 to July 10.

This subspecies is distinguished from *Louisianae* by the following differences: (1) its larger size (2.5 mm.); (2) its relatively broader head, the occipital lobes of which are more angular; and (3) its darker color.

— *STRUMIGENYS* (C.) *CLYPEATA* var. *LAEVINASIS* M. R. Smith. Louisville (M. R. Smith). This species was recorded in my previous paper in the Entomological News as No. 115 under the name of *Strumigenys clypeata* var. *pilinasis* Forel. After comparing our specimens with type specimens of *Strumigenys clypeata pilinasis*, I have been able to note the following differences: (1) The size is smaller (1.8 mm.); (2) the head is relatively more slender in proportion to its length; (3) the clypeus is not only more narrowly oval anteriorly but is also more depressed dorsally; (4) the clypeus and frontal area are decidedly more shining; and (5) the pilosity of the head is sparser, longer, and apparently more slender.

The three workers representing this variety were collected in the same type of habitat as were the *Strumigenys angulata*.

130. *STRUMIGENYS* (C.) *DIETRICH* M. R. Smith. Lucedale (H. Dietrich). This very striking species is represented in our collections by 7 workers, all of which were collected from beneath the bark of logs and stumps.

Strumigenys dietrichi is more apt to be mistaken for *Strumigenys ornata* than any other species of the genus. Although it does bear a strong resemblance to *ornata*, the following differences can be noted: (1) The anterior border of its clypeus is not only narrower but also more sharply angulate; and (2) the erect hairs are not so greatly enlarged apically.

131. *STRUMIGENYS* (C.) *CLYPEATA* Roger. Lucedale (H. Dietrich). Our collection contains only 1 individual of this species, a wingless queen, which was presumably taken from a rotten log or stump. It is probable that the ant is more common in the state than it appears to be, especially in view of the fact that Louisiana is the type locality. The characters which distinguish this species are: (1) its clypeus, which is scarcely longer than broad and which forms a broadly oval curve anteriorly; (2) the distinctive type of pilosity of the clypeus, which is represented by short, appressed, squamiform hairs; and (3) the dorso-ventrally flattened mandibles with a row of coarse irregular teeth on their border.

132. *STRUMIGENYS* (C.) *SCULPTURATA* M. R. Smith. Aberdeen (M. R. Smith), Ripley (S. W. Simmons). This species might easily be confused with *Strumigenys pulchella*, which it closely resembles in superficial appearance. Like *pulchella* it also nests beneath the bark of rotten logs and stumps, as well as in the ground beneath objects lying on the surface.

From *pulchella* this ant can be distinguished by the differences here enumerated: (1) its more robust head, the width of which is greater in proportion to the length; (2) the more rugulose or tuberculate sculpturing of the head; (3) its shorter and more robust type of mandibles; and (4) the decidedly truncate shape of the anterior border of the clypeus.

133. *LEPTOTHORAX TEXANUS* Wheeler. Louisville (M. R.

Smith), Ripley (S. W. Simmons). A small colony was found nesting in sandy loam soil on a hillside thicket near Louisville.

The species, which varies in size from 2.25-2.75 mm., can perhaps be recognized by the characters here given: (1) the 12-segmented antennae; (2) the absence of meso-epinotal constriction on the thorax; (3) the short, erect, white, clavate hairs on the body; (4) the reticulate-rugose sculpturing of the head, thorax, petiole, and post-petiole; and (5) the generally dark brown or black color, with slightly lighter appendages.

134. *APHAENOGASTER TENNESSEENSIS* Mayr. New Augusta (H. Dietrich). Strange to say this species is represented in our collections by only two specimens, both of which are wingless queens. These specimens were sent in for determination without any special remarks concerning their habitat.

The queen of *Aphaenogaster tennesseensis* differs so distinctly from the worker that Mayr described a queen unassociated with the workers as a different species. He called the species *A. laevis* because of the unusually smooth and shining surface of the body, which is dark red in color. In addition to the above characters the queen possesses very large, flattened epinotal spines. Wheeler regards this ant as a temporary parasite on other ground-nesting *Aphaenogaster*s of the *fulva* group. *A. tennesseensis* is typically a wood-nesting type of ant.

135. *MYRMICA PUNCTIVENTRIS* subsp. *PINETORUM* Wheeler. Starkville, (M. R. Smith). A single worker was excavated from the soil of a woodland strip near Starkville. The ant was found in close proximity to the nest of *Lasius (A.) interjectus* Mayr, which was located in the soil at the base of a rotten stump.

As the specific name indicates, the gaster of this species is very coarsely punctate at the base, a character which at once distinguishes it from other closely related species of North American *Myrmica*. The subspecies is separated from the species by: (1) its lighter color; (2) its smaller size; (3) its less heavily sculptured body; and (4) the epinotal spines which are not only shorter than with the species but are also deflected apically.