

**PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE *RÈGLES* FOR *PONERA* LATREILLE,
1804 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA)**

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Latreille (March 1804, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. nat.* 24 : 179) described the genus *Ponera* for his "Fourmis étranglées." This group was defined in 1802, *Hist. nat. Fourmis*, where it included, amongst other species, *Formica contracta* Latreille, 1802, and *Formica crassinoda* Latreille, 1802. Latreille (1810, *Consid. génér.* : 437) cited *Formica crassinoda* as the type. Westwood (1840, *Introd. mod. Class. Ins.* 2 : synopsis 83) cited *Formica contracta* Latreille, 1802, as the type.

In 1858 (*Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus.* 6 : 105), F. Smith erected the genus *Pachycondyla* for the species with which *Formica crassinoda* Latreille, 1802, is congeneric. The names *Ponera* Latreille (in the sense of Westwood) and *Pachycondyla* Smith have been universally accepted by hymenopterists and a large bionomic literature has grown up round the former name. Any modification of this practice would cause far greater confusion than uniformity.

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 name *Ponera* Latreille, March, 1804 (type *Formica contracta* Latreille, 1802 = *Formica coarctata* Latreille, 1801) be added to the *Official List of Generic Names*. The designation of *Formica crassinoda* Latreille, 1802, as type of *Ponera* by Latreille (1810) is therefore to be set aside and the designation of *Formica contracta* Latreille, 1802, by Westwood (1840) to be accepted.²⁷

²⁷ See footnote 4 above.