

ON THE STATUS OF *LEPTOTHORAX* MAYR AND  
SOME OF ITS SUBGENERA

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The genus *Leptothorax* was established by Mayr in 1855 (Verh. Zool.-Bot. Gesell. Wien 5: 431) for a number of Palearctic ants, such as *clypeatus* (Mayr), *acervorum* (F.), *muscorum* (Nyl.), *tuberum* (F.), and *unifasciatus* (Latr.), without genotype designation. This was not done until 1903, when Bingham (Fauna of British India (Hymenoptera), vol. 2, p. 214) selected *acervorum* as the genotype. Ruzsky, in 1904 (Zapiski Imp. Russk. Geogr. Obshch. 41 (1): 288), described a new genus, *Mychothorax*, and chose the same form, *acervorum*, as a genotype, thus making *Mychothorax* an isogenotypic synonym of *Leptothorax*. W. M. Wheeler, in 1911 (Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. 21: 166), overlooking Bingham's previous designation of *acervorum* as genotype of *Leptothorax*, named *acervorum* a second time as type of this genus. Then in 1922, Emery (in Wytzman's, Genera Insectorum, fascicule 174 c: 248), apparently unaware of the previous designation, selected *clypeatus* as genotype for *Leptothorax*, presumably because it was the first species listed by Mayr in his original article; and this concept has been universally adopted. However, since Bingham's is the first valid genotype designation for *Leptothorax*, the genus must be based on *acervorum*.

It thus becomes necessary to propose a new subgenus for Emery's concept of *Leptothorax*, subg. *Leptothorax*. This group, which is both Holarctic and Neotropical in distribution, and contains a large number of North American ants, I propose to name *Myrafant*, for my wife, whose maiden name was Myra Fant.

*Leptothorax*, subg. *Myrafant*, new subgenus

Type: *Leptothorax curvispinosus* Mayr. By present designation.

This subgenus includes such common North American forms as *fortinodis* Mayr, *rugatulus* Emery, *longispinosus* Roger, *texanus* W. M. Wheeler, *tricarinatus* Emery and many others. For a list of forms see Emery, 1922 (in Wytsman's, *Genera Insectorum*, fascicule 174 c: 251-259).

The worker has 11- or 12-segmented antennae; thoracic humeri usually rounded, occasionally subangular; mesoepinotal impression on the dorsal surface of the thorax usually absent, if present, scarcely perceptible.

In the preparation of a catalogue of Nearctic ants, it was noted that *Goniothorax* Emery, 1896, is preoccupied by *Goniothorax* Milne-Edwards, 1879. As *Nesomyrmex* W. M. Wheeler is the next available name, it supplants *Goniothorax* Emery. The synonymy is as follows:

*Leptothorax* subg. *Nesomyrmex* W. M. Wheeler

*Leptothorax*, subgenus *Goniothorax* Emery, 1896, *Bol. Soc. Ent. Ital.* 28:26, 58. Preoccupied. Type: *Leptothorax vicinus* Mayr. Designated by W. M. Wheeler, 1911.

*Nesomyrmex* W. M. Wheeler, 1910, *Bul. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 28:259. Type: *Nesomyrmex clavipilis* W. M. Wheeler. Monobasic.

*Caulomyrma* Forel, 1914, *Bul. Soc. Vaud. des Sci. Nat.* 50: 233. Type: *Leptothorax echinatinodis* Forel. Original designation.

Most of the ants of this subgenus occur in the Ethiopian, Oriental and Neotropical Regions. Our only known North American species is *wilda* M. R. Smith, from extreme southern Texas.