

A provisional list of the Balkan ants (Hym., Formicidae) and a key to the worker caste. I. Synonymic List.

DONAT AGOSTI^{1,3} & CEDRIC A. COLLINGWOOD²

¹ Entomologisches Institut ETHZ, 8092 Zürich, Switzerland

² City Museum, Municipal Buildings, Leeds LS1 3AA, U.K.

319 ant species or taxa of incertae sedis of 48 genera of 7 subfamilies of the Balkans i.e. Albania (29 species or taxa of incertae sedis), Bulgaria (116), Greece north of the Gulf of Korinthos (174), the European part of Turkey (90) and Yugoslavia (171) are included in the synonymic list (Part I.) 19 taxa have been given new specific status, 12 taxa have been synonymised and 16 taxa have infrasubspecific or preoccupied names or a nomen nudum and are therefore not available. *Monomorium phoenicium*, *Tetramorium diomedaeum*, *T. hippocratis*, *T. sahlbergi* and *Acantholepis karawajewi*, formerly nomen not available, are redescribed as *bonae* sp. Data on the distribution of every species are added. The list is based on published records, new records, and taxa expected to be present. A key to the species will be provided in a second part (*Mitt. Schweiz. Ent. Ges.* 60 [3–4]).

INTRODUCTION

Material has been collected during the three years (1983–85) towards a fauna of the Balkans. To encourage further collection and facilitate recording, the following synonymic list (Part I) and keys to the worker caste have been prepared. (Part II, will be published in the next issue). Both list and keys are of a provisional nature as some of the earlier records are doubtful and in many cases correct synonymy has not been established and must await further revisionary studies. All the infrasubspecific names have been suppressed and following BOLTON (pers. com.) and WILSON & BROWN (1953) only specific names are used. Subspecific taxa have been synonymized by the means of additional intergrading samples or given specific status. Only keys to the worker caste are possible at this time, since males and females are still unknown for many of the species groups apart from *Myrmica*, *Lasius* and *Formica*. Both list and keys include species known to occur on the Balkans, i.e. Albania (29 species or taxa of incertae sedis), Bulgaria (113), Greece, north of the Gulf of Korinthos, including the northern Aegean islands (161), the European part of Turkey (89), Bulgaria (113), Yugoslavia (171), or expected to occur there (records from western Anatolia, the southern Aegean islands and the Peloponnesos). Out of a total of 319 taxa listed here, a few have been omitted from the keys where specimens have not been available for examination and original descriptions have been inadequate to distinguish them clearly. It is hoped that collectors will point out defects in the keys and provide additional records so that a fuller and more accurate text can be prepared in due course.

³ This work has been supported by the Biedermann-Mantel Stiftung, Zurich