

New World Army Ants

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Genus *Atta* Fabricius

(Attini)

Atta Fabricius, 1804:421. Type-species: *Formica cephalotes* Linne, 1756; designated by Wheeler, 1911c.

Oecodoma Latreille, 1818:50. Type-species: *Formica cephalotes* Linne, 1756; designated by Wheeler, 1911c.

Atta subg. *Acromyrmex* Mayr, 1665:83, Type-species: *Formica hvstrix* Latreille, 1802a; monobasic. NEW SYNONYMY.

Atta subg. *Moellerius* Forel, 1693b:589, Type-species: *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *landolti* Forel, 1864; designated by Wheeler, 1911c. NEW SYNONYMY.

Atta subg. *Archeatta* Goncalves, 1942:342. Type-species: *Oecodoma mexicana* F. Smith, 1858; original designation. NEW SYNONYMY.

Atta subg. *Neoatta* Goncalves, 1942:346. Type-species: *Formica sexdens* Linne, 1758; original designation. NEW SYNONYMY.

Atta subg. *Epiatta* Borgmeier, 1950:243, 246. Type-species: (*Atta laevigata* F. Smith) = *Oecodoma laevigata* F. Smith, 1858; original designation.

Atta subg. *Palaeatta* Borgmeier, 1950:243, 244. Type-species: *Atta sexdens* var. *bisphaerica* Forel, 1908b; original designation. NEW SYNONYMY.

The only apparent distinction between the species traditionally assigned to *Acromyrmex* and those of *Atta* is that the latter are slightly larger and possess three, rather than four, pairs of thoracic spines. Genera should be characterized by more substantial, fundamental characters. Numerous names are synonymized in the list below. These synonymies continue the trend initiated by Borgmeier (1950) and Goncalves (1961) on *Atta* and *Acromyrmex*. The rationale in each case is the same: the variant forms fall well within the normal range of variation of the species, whether the feature examined is color, stature, abundance of pilosity, or development of tubercles or spines.

Included names

A. *cephalotes* (Linne, 1758) Mexico to Brazil and Bolivia.

- = *Formica migrator* DeGeer, 1773
- = *Formica migrator* DeGeer, 1773
- = *Formica fervens* Drury, 1782?
- = *Formica grossa* Fabricius, 1787
- = *Atta lutea* Forel, 1893b
- = *Atta* var. *opaca* Forel, 1904a
- = *Atta cephalotes* var. *integrior* Forel, 1904a
- = *Atta cephalotes* subsp. *polita* Emery, 1905
- = *Atta cephalotes* subsp. *isthmicola* Weber, 1941b
- = *Atta cephalotes* subsp. *oaxaquensis* Goncalves, 1942

A. *colombica* Guerin, 1845. Guatemala to Colombia.

- = *Atta lebasii* Guerin, 1845

- = *Atta colombica* var. *tonsipes* Santschi, 1929a
- = *Atta colombica* var. *erecta* Santschi, 1929a

A. coronata (Fabricius, 1804). Costa Rica to Brazil and Bolivia.

- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *moelleri* Forel, 1893b
- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *moelleri* meinerti Feral, 189Th
- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *moelleri* var. *panamensis* Forel, 1899. NEW SYNONYMY.
- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *moelleri* var. *modesta* Feral, 1901c
- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *moelleri* var. *andicola* Emery, 1905a NEW SYNONYMY
- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *moelleri* var. *angustata* Forel, 1908a. NEW SYNONYMY.
- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *moelleri* var. *rectispina* Forel. 1908a. NEW SYNONYMY.
- = *Acromyrmex* *moelleri* *panamensis* var. *ochraceola* Forel, 1922
- = *Acromyrmex* *coronatus* *andicola* var. *flavascens* Santschi, 1925a.
- = *Acromyrmex* *coronatus* *moelleri* var. *obscurior* .Santschi, 1925a.
- = *Acromyrmex* *coronatus* subsp. *importunus* Santschi, 1925b NEW SYNONYMY.
- = *Acromyrmex* *coronatus* *ochraceolus* var. *ornatus* Santschi, 1925b,
- = *Acromyrmex* *coronatus* *andicola* var. *medianus* Santschi, 1925b.

A. mexicana (F. Smith, 1859) . United States (Arizona); Mexico to El Salvador.

A. octospinosa (Reich, 1793) . Mexico to Brazil and Peru.

- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *guentheri* Forel, 1893b.
- = *Atta* (*Acromyrmex*) *octospinosa* var. *echinatio* Forel, 1899a. NEW SYNONYMY.
- = *Acromyrmex* *octospinosa* *pallida* Crawley, 1921.
- = *Acromyrmex* *octospinosa* subsp. *ekchuah* Wheeler, 1937b. NEW SYNONYMY.
- = *Acromyrmex* *octospinosus* subsp. *volcanus* Wheeler, 1937b. NEW SYNONYMY.

A. sexdens (Linne, 1759) . Costa Rica to Argentina and Paraguay.

- = *Formica* *salomonis* Christ, 1791.
- = *Formica* *flavicornis* Fabricius, 1799
- = *Formica* *sexdentata* Latreille, 1802a
- = *Atta* *coptophylla* Guerin, 1845
- = *Oecodoma* *abdominalis* F. Smith, 1858

Workers		
1	Mesosomal dorsum with four pairs of prominent spines (one each on pronotum and propodeum, two on mesonotum); EN of major less than 3.0 nun; occiput multituberculate or spinose (subg. <i>Acromyrmex</i>)	2
--	Mesosomal dorsum with three pairs of prominent spines (one each on pronotum, mesonotum, and propodeum; EN of major over 2.7 mm; occiput with a single pair of spines or tubercles major) or with several pairs (medias and minors) may be inconspicuous (sub. <i>Atta</i>)	3
2 (1)	Midpronotal tubercles or spines present, though sometimes short (especially in smallest workers)	<i>coronata</i>
--	Midpronotal tubercles or spines absent (midpronotal seta pair sometimes arising from conical papillae)	<i>octospinosa</i>

3(1)	Long, reddish brown setae sparse on front of occipital lobes of major, not forming dense cluster or mat; front of occipital lobes uniformly shiny throughout or very nearly so (specifically, broad median area is not smooth and shiny and obviously contrasting with dull or slightly shiny front of lobes); side of mesosoma dull	4
--	Major worker with dense mat of long, reddish brown setae; median area of head conspicuously smoother and shinier than front of occipital lobes (especially in media and minor).; side of mesosoma with extensive smooth, polished areas (media and minor especially)	<i>cephalotes</i>
4(3)	Front and top of occipital lobes of major dull to slightly shiny; first gastral tergum of all subcastes densely granulate and opaque	5
--	Front and top of occipital lobes of major superficially shagreened and moderately shiny to smooth and polished; first gastral tergum. Of all subcastes lightly shagreened, moderately to strongly shiny	<i>mexicana</i>
5(4)	Top of occipital lobe with small denticles or spines, in addition to occipital spine and anterior to it (in majors usually reduced to a small convexity that is shinier than surrounding area)	<i>sexdens</i>
	Top of occipital lobe of all subcastes without denticle or spine anterior to occipital spine	<i>colombica</i>

Any questions regarding this page, e-mail [Gordon](#)

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