

## A New Synonym of the Ant *Proceratium japonicum* (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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TERAYAMA (1985) described a ponerine ant, *Proceratium formosicola*, from Taiwan. The characters given to discriminate the species from *P. japonicum* are the more convex alitruncal profile and the longer petiolar node. However, these differences are intraspecific or even intracolony variation. The petiolar node lengths of four syntype workers of *japonicum* are 0.16, 0.17, 0.18, and 0.18 mm. The range of the measurements is the same as that for *formosicola* given by TERAYAMA (1985), and I measured the petiolar node length of *formosicola* holotype worker as 0.18 mm (the head length of the *formosicola* holotype in my measurement is 0.68 mm, differing from TERAYAMA's (1985) measurement of 0.45 mm). Four colonies from Kanagawa Prefecture, Okinawa Island, or Iriomote Island contain workers with the alitruncal profile being as convex as or more convex than that of the *formosicola* holotype. A similar intraspecific variation is known in a European species, *P. melinum* (BROWN, 1958). Furthermore, the paratype female (according to the label, the locality is Puli and the date is 4-viii-1981, different from the original description; perhaps a mislabelling) is identical to those of *japonicum* in size (my measurement for the head width of the *formosicola* female is 0.71 mm, while TERAYAMA (1985) gave it as 0.75 mm, which disagrees with his illustration) and other morphological characters. Accordingly, *P. formosicola* is a new synonym of *P. japonicum*.

### *Proceratium japonicum* SANTSCHI

*Proceratium japonicum* SANTSCHI, 1937: 362–363, fig. 1. Worker. Type locality: Oshima Iya Hunshiu [Honshu], Japan (4 workers, 10-vii-1928, KISATO leg.). [4 syntype workers in Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel examined.]

*Proceratium formosicola* TERAYAMA, 1985: 406–408, figs. 1–4. Worker, female. Type locality: Lushan, Nantou Hsien, Taiwan (3 workers, 1 female, 15-viii-1980, M. TERAYAMA leg.). **Syn. nov.** [Holotype worker and a paratype female in National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba examined.]

*P. japonicum* thus extends its southernmost distribution to Taiwan, where it seems more common (TERAYAMA, 1990) as well as in the Ryukyu Islands (ONOYAMA, 1976) than the north of these areas.

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