

SYNONYMY BETWEEN *LEPTOTHORAX CAPARICA* HENIN, PAIVA & COLLINGWOOD, 2001 AND *CARDIOCONDYLA MAURITANICA* FOREL, 1890 (HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE).

JEAN-MARC HENIN^(a)
CEDRIC COLLINGWOOD^(b)
MARIA ROSA PAIVA^(c)

Short note

A new species was recently described by HENIN *et al.* (2001) in the ant genus *Leptothorax* Mayr, 1855 (Hymenoptera, Formicidae). Four workers were collected in 2000, and later on more, about 30 km South from Lisbon, and named *Leptothorax caparica* sp. n.. However, the pictures and description of the species strongly recalled the genus *Cardiocondyla*. Accordingly, further analyse and identification by discriminant functions enabled the determination of the workers as *Cardiocondyla mauritanica* Forel, 1890, with an error probability of $p < 0.0001$ (B. Seifert, pers. com.). *L. caparica* is thus a synonym of *C. mauritanica*. This cosmopolitan species is mainly distributed in semi-deserts and other xerothermous habitats (SEIFERT, 2003). First record for Iberia was reported by ORTIZ and TINAUT (1988): the sample originated from Malaga (Spain). Afterwards, ESPADALER (1992) caught the species in the south of Barcelona. Although not all Spanish records of *C. mauritanica* have been published, the species is, at present, known from many regions of Spain (ESPADALER, pers. com.). For Portugal however, the species was neither mentioned in COLLINGWOOD & PRINCE (1998), nor in a more recent catalogue by SALGUEIRO (2002). If correctly identified, our record would have been the first one for Portugal. SEIFERT (2003) also reports the presence of this species in, or near, "Montemor" (it is not known if it concerns Montemor-o-Velho or Montemor-o-Novo). According to the same author, *C. mauritanica* is "one of the most abundant and most widely distributed *Cardiocondyla* species of the world". It is thus very likely that future ant surveys in Portugal will lead to other records of this species ... as well as to other original findings.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Dr X. Espadaler (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain), Dr B. Bolton (Natural History Museum of London, England) and Dr B. Seifert (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Görlitz, Germany) for their kind comments on the initial description. We also sincerely acknowledge the latter for ants' identifications and the former for kind help in the writing of this note.

^(a)Unité de Gestion des Ressources forestières et des Milieux naturels, Faculté universitaire des Sciences agronomiques, Passage des Déportés, 2 – 5030 Gembloux (Belgium). E-mail: henin.jm@fsagx.ac.be

^(b)Liverpool City Museum. UK-L3 8EN – United Kingdom.

^(c)GUECKO/DCEA, FCT, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, PT-2829-516 Campus de Caparica, Portugal. E-mail: mrp@mail.fct.unl.pt

REFERENCES

- COLLINGWOOD, C. A. & PRINCE, A. (1998). A Guide to the Ants of Continental Portugal. Supl. 5, *Boletim da Sociedade Portuguesa de Entomologia*, 49 pp.
- ESPADALER, X. (1992). Formigues del Garraf: coneixement actual i claus de determinació. I *Trobada d'Estudiosos del Garraf. Monografies*, 19: 9-13.
- HENIN, J.-M., PAIVA, M. R. & COLLINGWOOD, C. A. (2001). The Iberian *Leptothorax* Mayr, 1855 (Hymenoptera, Formicidae): discovery of a new species and first record of *L. atlantis* Santschi, 1911. *Boletim da Sociedade Portuguesa de Entomologia*, 7: 161-166.
- ORTIZ, F.J. & TINAUT, A. (1988) Formícidos del litoral granadino. *Orsis*, 3: 145-163.
- SALGUEIRO, J. (2002) Catálogo dos Formicídeos de Portugal continental e ilhas. *Boletim de la Sociedad Entomologica Aragonesa*, 31: 145-171.
- SEIFERT, B. (2003) The ant genus *Cardiocondyla* (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Formicidae) – a taxonomic revision of the *C. elegans*, *C. bulgarica*, *C. batesii*, *C. nuda*, *C. shuckardi*, *C. stambuloffii*, *C. wroughtonii*, *C. emeryi*, and *C. minutior* species groups. *Annalen des naturhistorischen Museums in Wien*, 104 (B): 203-338.