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 *acerco- rum* a second time as type of this genus. Then in 1922, Emery (in Wytsman'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.


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


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.