

**CTENOBETHYLUS (BETHYLIDAE) A NEW SYNONYM
OF IRIDOMYRMEX (FORMICIDAE, HYMENOPTERA)¹**

BY WILLIAM L. BROWN, JR.

Department of Entomology, Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853

In 1939, in a paper describing several new genera and species of Baltic Amber Hymenoptera, C. T. Brues erected *Ctenobethylus succinalis* gen. et sp. nov. for a single specimen of what he took to be an apterous female bethylid. I recently chanced upon this description, and was immediately struck by the ant-like habitus of the type as portrayed in Brues' fig. 7. It was also noted that the figure showed only 12 antennomeres, although Brues had made a diagnostic point of claiming "13-jointed" antennae for his genus.

My suspicion that the type of *C. succinalis* is actually a worker ant of the dolichoderine genus *Iridomyrmex* was confirmed when it was sent for my study. The specimen has the legs folded up so as to obscure the waist, which explains why Brues did not see the petiolar scale. In the preparation as it now stands, however, the scale is partly visible in a left-side view, although it is covered with a white film. The specimen also has 12-merous antennae, and in fact closely corresponds to small-sized workers of *Iridomyrmex goepperti* with which I have compared it directly.

Although I have not seen the type of *I. goepperti*, I compared 11 worker specimens of this commonest of all Baltic Amber ants lent from the Museum of Comparative Zoology collection. (*I. goepperti* made up over half of the more than 10,000 Baltic Amber ants determined by W. M. Wheeler at one time or another; see Wheeler, 1914: op. cit. infra, p. 8.) These specimens and the *C. succinalis* type meet very well the available descriptions of *I. goepperti*. The formal synonymy is:

¹A Report of Research from the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station. Research supported by National Science Foundation Grant DEB75-22427.

Manuscript received by the editor November 16, 1976