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Horace Donisthorpe

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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *MESSOR* FOREL, AND A NEW VARIETY OF
APHAENOGASTER MAYR (HYM. FORMICIDAE) FROM TURKEY

By Horace DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S.

***Messor barbarus* L. subsp. *mediosanguineus* subsp. n.**

♂ & ♀. Head and gaster shining black, mandibles and thorax blood red, petiole and postpetiole blackish, apex of former reddish, legs and antennae brown.

Head with larger and smaller scattered punctures; hairs beneath head sparse and uneven, some fairly long. Thorax transversely striate. *Epinotum* armed with two short pointed teeth.

Long. 4-6.5 mm.

Described from 21 specimens. TURKEY (*Kosswig*).

Type in British Museum (Natural History).

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Aphaenogaster testaceopilosa Lucas subsp. **semipolita** Nylander var.
rufotestacea var. n.

♀. Reddish ferruginous, gaster somewhat darker; eyes black. Size, outstanding hairs, spines of epinotum, etc., as in *semipolita*. First segment of gaster finely longitudinally striate at base.

Described from 5 ♀. TURKEY (*Kosswig*).
Type in British Museum (Natural History).

The original description of *semipolita* Nyl., is as follows:—

“In Sicilia vero capta est a cel. Zeller species valde affinis et similis huic varietati, sed paullulum minor et abdomine toto nitido, laevissimo. Dicatur *M. semipolita*.”

“On reconait aisément le *M. testaceo-pilosa* à son scape finement strié, et à son premier segment abdominal d'un velouté mat.”

It is curious, but nowhere is the colour of *semipolita* mentioned! One might conclude that it was black, as Nylander speaks of *testaceopilosa* Lucas as “nigra vel piceo-nigra”; Lucas describes *testaceopilosa* as “noire.” Er. André writes: “Corps noir ou d'un brun noir”; Emery: “Farbe schwarz”; and Santschi: “noir.”

I captured many specimens of *semipolita* in various localities in Sicily, the identification being confirmed by Menozzi. They are all of a dark reddish-brown.

Emery takes rather a wide view of *semipolita*, for he states:—“Dorsalplatte des Basalsegments der Gaster wenigstens an den Seiten glatt und stark glänzend; seltener ist die ganz Dorsalplatte glatt und nur an der Basis gestrichelt.”

In the original description the gaster is described as “toto nitido, laevissimo.”

I found the ants described above among a large number of species sent to me to determine from the University of Istanbul, through the agency of my friend Dr. Malcolm Burr. Most of them, I believe, were taken by Professor Kosswig.

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