

***Myrmica slovacica* SADIL and *Myrmica deplanata* EMERY rather than  
*M. salina* RUZSKY and *M. lacustris* RUZSKY (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)  
in Poland**

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**ABSTRACT.** Two ant species reported from Poland, *Myrmica salina* RUZSKY and *M. lacustris* RUZSKY, are renamed to *M. slovacica* SADIL and *M. deplanata* EMERY, respectively, according to a recent taxonomic reassessment by RADCHENKO & ELMES (2009).

**KEY WORDS:** ants, taxonomy, *Myrmica slovacica*, *Myrmica deplanata*, *Myrmica salina*, *Myrmica lacustris*, fauna of Poland.

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The taxonomic histories of many ant species are very tangled and not free from unexpected turnabouts. Among such taxa are two species of the genus *Myrmica* LATR. recently reported from Poland as *Myrmica salina* RUZSKY (RADCHENKO et al. 2004) and *M. lacustris* RUZSKY (RADCHENKO et al. 2005). Both have been described from West Siberia and northern Kazakhstan: the former as *M. scabrinodis* var. *salina*, and the latter as *M. scabrinodis* var. *lacustris* (RUZSKY 1905). The original type specimens of these two species were thought to have been lost for many years. The lack of reference material as well as Ruzsky's unclear descriptions resulted in prolonged controversies about the taxonomic status of these forms, and ambiguous opinions on their relations with other taxa.

As for the history of *M. salina*, ARNOLDI (1970) raised *M. scabrinodis* var. *salina* to the species rank, considering it a different species from *M. slovacica* SADIL. On the other hand, SEIFERT (1988) considered *M. slovacica* a junior synonym of *M. salina*. Then RA-

DCHENKO (1994a, b) recognised *M. salina* (sensu RUZSKY, not sensu ARNOLDI and SEIFERT) as a junior synonym of *M. lacustris*, and, correspondingly, *M. salina* sensu ARNOLDI and SEIFERT as a synonym of *M. slovacica*. SEIFERT (2002), in turn, revived *M. salina* from synonymy, again considering it the senior synonym of *M. slovacica*, a proposal accepted by RADCHENKO et al. (2004).

The situation of *M. lacustris* is even more complicated, and the taxonomic history of this species tangled with that of *M. deplanata* EMERY. Besides *M. scabrinodis* var. *lacustris*, in the same monograph, RUZSKY (1905) described *M. scabrinodis* subsp. *lobicornis* var. *deplanata* from Russia (current Volgograd and Chelyabinsk Provinces), Georgia and Ukraine (Crimea). As this name is unavailable (quadrinomen), the first available use of it is *M. lobicornis* var. *deplanata* EMERY, 1921, and the name *M. deplanata* was then commonly used for a species distributed from Central Europe to the Altai Mts (e.g. SEIFERT 1988, 2003). RADCHENKO (1994b), however, based on RUZSKY's specimen – as it later appeared, erroneously determined by RUZSKY himself – recognised *deplanata* as conspecific with *lacustris* and synonymised them under the priority name of *M. lacustris*. In fact, that 'unlucky' specimen was a typical *deplanata* (sensu e.g. SADIL 1952, ARNOLDI 1970 and SEIFERT 2003) (see RADCHENKO and ELMES 2009).

Everything became clear (and changed in a revolutionary way) when A. RADCHENKO found – in Carlo Emery's ant collection kept at the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" in Genoa, Italy – some RUZSKY's types that had previously been believed to be lost, and among them those of *M. salina* and *M. lacustris*. This allowed for a reassessment of the taxonomic positions of these (and some other) disputable species and the establishment that:

1. *M. salina* is not conspecific with *M. slovacica*. Therefore, *M. slovacica* has been revived from synonymy, and *M. salina* has remained a good species (known so far only from West Siberia and northern Kazakhstan);
2. *M. lacustris* is not conspecific with *M. deplanata*; what is more, it has appeared to be a junior synonym of *M. stangeana* RUZSKY. Therefore, *M. deplanata* has been revived from synonymy (for details see RADCHENKO and ELMES 2009).

The above reshuffle in taxonomy carries with it the necessity of a reassessment of Polish myrmecofauna regarding the relevant species: instead of *M. salina*, reported from the Eastern Beskidy Mts (RADCHENKO et al. 2004), and *M. lacustris*, reported from the Małopolska and Lubelska Uplands (RADCHENKO et al. 2005), we have *M. slovacica* and *M. deplanata*, respectively, in Poland. All data on distribution and ecology, as well as morphological details given in the cited papers, transfer with no changes from the 'old' onto the 'new' species or, in fact, their names.

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