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NEW SYNONYMY OF A NORTH AMERICAN ANT, APHAENOGASTER MACROSPINA M. R. SMITH (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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Recently a colleague suggested that Aphaenogaster macrospina M. R. Smith might be a synonym of Aphaenogaster flemingi M. R. Smith and requested that I examine types and other specimens of both species which are in the collection of the U. S. National Museum. A careful study of this material indicates that macrospina and flemingi are conspecific. A. flemingi was described from minor workers of an incipient colony and macrospina from large workers of a mature colony. Under the name macrospina, flemingi has been recorded from the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Colonies are known to nest in rotting wood (pine stumps) and may also nest in the soil. The male and female have not yet been described. The synonymy is as follows:

Aphaenogaster (Attomyrma) flemingi M. R. Smith

Aphaenogaster texana flemingi M. R. Smith, 1928. Ent. News 39: 275–276, worker. Type locality, State College (formerly A. and M. College), Mississippi. Types in U. S. National Museum, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, and the collection of W. S. Creighton. (Raised to specific rank by Creighton, 1950.)

Aphaenogaster texana macrospina M. R. Smith, 1934, Ent. Soc. Amer. Ann. 27: 386–387, worker, figs. 1, 2. Type locality, Navy Yard, Charleston, S. C. Types in U. S. National Museum. (Raised to specific rank by Creighton, 1950.) New synonymy.

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