

- Mandible.** One of the pair of biting jaws lying below or anterior to the clypeus, the masticatory border of which bears teeth (fig. 1).
- Mandible strongly incurved.** With a strong convexity externally and a strong concavity inwardly; typical in mandibles of *Solenopsis geminata* (F.).
- Masticatory border of mandible.** The chewing border of the mandible; that border which bears the teeth (fig. 20,b).
- Maxillary palpus.** One of the paired, segmented, feelerlike structures beneath the front portion of the head, anterior and lateral to the labial palpus (fig. 42); it is normally longer than the labial palpus.
- Mesoepinotal impression.** A pronounced transverse furrow or groove at, or in the vicinity of, the mesoepinotal suture.
- Mesoepinotal suture.** The suture separating the mesonotum from the epinotum.
- Mesonotum.** The dorsal surface of the mesothorax.
- Mesopleuron.** The side of the mesothorax; in general, that area above the coxa of the second leg.
- Mesothorax.** The second segment of the thorax; the segment bearing the second pair of legs (fig. 1).
- Metapleuron.** The side of the metathorax; in general, the area above the coxa of the third leg.
- Metasternal spine.** A spine borne at or near the posterolateral angle of the thorax; typical of *Tetramorium guineense* (F.) (fig. 25).
- Middle tibia.** That segment between the femur and first tarsal segment of the second or middle leg.
- Monomorphic.** Of one form; descriptive of those worker ants which are not appreciably different in size or form, as *Monomorium pharaonis* (L.).
- Nuptial flights.** The mating flight of female and male ants. It should be understood that all ants do not need to take flight and mate in the air; some mate inside of the nest, others on the soil, plants, or other objects outside of the nest.
- Obsolescent.** In the process of disappearing or of becoming useless.
- Ocellus (pl., ocelli).** A small, single-lens eye located on the vertex of the head, usually 3 in a triangle (fig. 1); ocelli are not present on worker ants of all species.
- Occipital border.** The hind margin of the head.
- Occipital lobes.** The prominent, posterolateral corners of the head, characteristic of the major workers (soldiers) of species of *Pheidole*.
- Occiput.** That portion of the head between the vertex and neck (fig. 1).
- Ommatidium (pl., ommatidia).** One of the visual units comprising a compound eye.
- Omnivorous.** Eats everything.
- Opaque.** Not shiny; without luster; nontransparent.
- Pedicel.** The one or two basal segments of the abdomen between the epinotum and gaster.
- Pedunculate.** Set on a stalk.
- Penultimate tooth of mandible.** Next to the last tooth of the mandible; the last tooth is the one on the masticatory border nearest the superior border.
- Petiolar node.** The greatly enlarged portion of the petiole. The node may be of diverse sizes and shapes.
- Petiolar node scalelike, in profile.** The node is narrow and upright or inclined (figs. 30 and 43).
- Petiole.** A pedicel composed of only one segment, or the first segment of a two-segmented pedicel (fig. 1).
- Piceous.** Pitchy dark brown; between fuscous and black.
- Piligerous foveolae.** Coarse, pitlike depressions that bear erect hairs; present on the cheeks of *Camponotus caryae discolor* (Buckley) (fig. 38, a).
- Pilosity.** Hairiness, in contrast to pubescence, which is usually shorter, finer, and more appressed.
- Posterior border of clypeus.** The transverse suture at the rear of the clypeus which lies in front of the antennal insertions, the frontal carinae, and the frontal area (fig. 1).
- Postpetiolar node.** The greatly enlarged portion of the postpetiole. The node may be of diverse sizes and shapes.
- Postpetiole.** The second or posterior segment of a two-segmented pedicel.