

[Reprinted from JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Vol. XVII., No. 1, March, 1909.]

## A SMALL COLLECTION OF ANTS FROM VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

BY WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER,  
BOSTON, MASS.

The following ants were collected by Mr. Charles F. Rawsey at Camberwell, Victoria, in a "hot, fairly dry, hilly area, with sandy (granite) soil and poor, scrubby vegetation ('box-timber')." There are no new species in the collection, but as it comprises a few hitherto unknown sexual forms, was made in a new locality, and is accompanied by some interesting notes, it is well worth recording.

### PONERINÆ.

#### 1. *Ectatomma (Rhytidoponera) socrus* Forel.

*Worker*. — Length 11-13 mm.

Head longer than broad, somewhat broader in front than behind, with straight, subparallel sides, excised posterior margin, prominent, slightly recurved infero-posterior angles and a prominent, transverse postocular crest, obtusely angular on the sides and interrupted in the middle. Eyes large, very prominent, hemispherical, just behind the middle of the head. Mandibles flattened, with deflected, pointed tips and straight inner borders furnished with numerous teeth of different sizes and irregular distribution. Clypeus broadly rounded in front. Frontal carinæ continued back to the middle of the head. Frontal area distinct. Antennal scapes surpassing the corners of the postocular crest by about one third their length. Funicular joints slender, second joint longer than first. Pronotum behind with an indistinct protuberance on each side and an acute anteriorly directed spine on its antero-inferior corner. Promesonotal and mesoepinotal sutures distinct but only slightly impressed. Petiole from above one and one half times as long as broad, about twice as broad through the node as through the peduncle; in profile with a powerful, downwardly-directed anterovent-

tral spine, and with flattened, vertical anterior and posterior surfaces and horizontal dorsal surface to the node. Seen from behind the node is evenly rounded on the sides and above. Gaster rather short, convex dorsally, with subequal first and second segments. Legs rather long.

Subopaque; mandibles densely and finely striated and sparsely punctate. Clypeus and upper surface of head coarsely rugose and covered with gross foveæ which often lie in rows between the rugæ. The latter are longitudinal on the clypeus and front, but transverse on the occiput. Cheeks opaque, granular, with smaller and more scattered foveæ. Thorax and coxæ granular, the former transversely rugulose with scattered foveæ like those on cheeks. Petiole a little smoother and more shining, with shallower foveæ. Gaster coarsely shagreened and sparsely punctate, the first segment arcuately and finely rugulose.

Hairs fulvous, short, erect; scattered on the body, somewhat more conspicuous on the legs and antennal scapes.

Piceous black; mandibles, maxillæ, tip of gaster, antennæ and legs, including the coxæ, reddish.

*Male*. — Length 1.1 mm.

Head, including the eyes, about as long as broad, rounded behind, without any traces of the posterior angles or postocular crest. Mandibles well-developed, similar to those of the worker. Antennæ long and slender, scapes fully two thirds as long as the second funicular joint, first funicular joint as long as broad; joints 2-12 elongate, gradually diminishing in length distally. Pronotum with prominent inferolateral spines like the worker. Mesonotum and scutellum convex; epinotum flattened as in the worker. Petiole about two and one half times as long as broad, but little narrower in front than behind, with prominent ventral spine and anterosuperior angles and a low, rounded node. Gaster more slender than that of worker. Legs long and slender.

Opaque; mandibles finely and densely striated. Head and clypeus reticulate-rugulose throughout, the former foveolate posteriorly. Pronotal sculpture like that of the worker. Remainder of thorax more coarsely reticulate-rugose than the head, rugæ on base of epinotum longitudinal. Petiole and gaster somewhat shining, shagreened.

Pilosity and color as in the worker, posterior gastric segments broadly yellow at the base. Wings infuscated, with black stigma.

Six workers and two males, taken from a "small, red mound in clay soil. Digging disclosed a mass of small twigs or pieces of sticks, apparently arranged in order and covered and intermixed with clay to produce a regular formation, possibly for roofing or giving stability. Slaters [and Isopods] were found in the chambers with the ants, also a few workers of white ants."

This species, which is allied to *E. scabrum* Mayr, *mayri* Emery and *crisatum* Mayr, was based on workers from Charters Towers, Queensland (Forel, Ann Soc. Ent. Belg., XXXVIII, 1894, p. 236).

2. *Ectatomma (Rhytidoponera) metallicum* F. Smith.

Eight workers and a male. According to Mr. Rawsey, the sting

of this species, which is often found associated with *Cremastogaster rufotestacea* and *Iridomyrmex detectus*, especially in inhabited or deserted nests of the latter species, is "followed by a slightly painful and persistent itch."

3. *Myrmecia nigriceps* Mayr.

Four typical workers.

4. *Myrmecia pyriformis* F. Smith.

Seven workers and two large larvæ. This is the "black bull-ant" and, according to Mr. Rawsey, is much less abundant in the mountains of Victoria than the preceding species, "the red bull-ant." The larvæ resemble those of *M. gulosa* in my collection and are shaped like the larvæ of *Stigmatomma pallipes*. They are fully 2 cm. long, non-tuberculate and covered with short, sparse hairs.

MYRMICINÆ.

5. *Cremastogaster sordidula dispar* Forel.

Five workers, two females and three males which agree perfectly with Forel's description. There is no trace of a longitudinal furrow in the postpetiole of the worker. The specimens were "turned up accidentally in a spadeful of earth."

DOLICHODERINÆ.

6. *Tapinoma minutum* Mayr.

Several workers and two dealated females. The latter measure 4.5 mm. and are very slender. "Obtained from a mound 1 ft. by 1½ ft. in diameter, at foot of gum-tree."

7. *Iridomyrmex detectus* F. Smith.

Six workers and two males. This beautifully iridescent species seems to be common in all parts of Australia and does not vary to any considerable extent. It builds large, sandy mounds, sometimes several feet in diameter. Mr. Rawsey "counted 17 such mounds connected on a hot day by one stream of ants," indicating that a single colony extends over several nests. He states that the workers are harmless, *i. e.*, do not sting and that their bite is a "mere pinch."

8. *Iridomyrmex bicknelli* Emery.

Nine workers without noticeable differences from the typical form of the species. Taken from nests "at roots of 'tussock' (a poor, but clumpy grass)."

9. *Iridomyrmex nitidus* Mayr.

*Worker*. — Length 4.5–5 mm.

Head, excluding the mandibles, about one fourth longer than broad, narrowed posteriorly and anteriorly. Posterior margin clearly excised. Eyes distinctly in front of the middle. Mandibles with numerous teeth. Clypeus with broadly rounded anterior margin. Frontal area large, and, like the frontal groove, indistinct. Antennal scapes surpassing the posterior corners of the head by about one sixth their length; joints I, 2 and III of the funiculus fully twice as long as broad, remaining joints but little longer than broad, subequal. Thorax slender, pronotum distinctly narrower than the head, somewhat protuberant but flattened, broader than long; mesonotum regularly elliptical, one and one half times as long as broad. Mesoepinotal constriction deep and broad, flattened at the bottom. Epinotum long, with subequal base and declivity, the former flat in profile and falling off abruptly in front, with a vertical surface as long as the length of the mesoepinotal depression with which it forms a right angle. Declivity forming a rounded, obtuse angle with the base. Petiole higher but narrower than the epinotum, with flattened posterior and slightly convex anterior surface and rounded border, slightly produced in the middle above. Legs rather long.

Smooth and shining throughout; very finely, sparsely, and indistinctly punctate; mandibles subopaque, more densely but finely punctate.

Hairs and pubescence grayish, the former short, suberect or erect and scattered, longer on the trunk, inconspicuous or lacking on the antennal scapes and legs. Pubescence very sparse, most distinct on the gaster, but not concealing the shining surface.

Dark chestnut brown; mandibles, clypeus, tarsi, articulations of legs, neck, mouth-parts, lower surface of head, thorax and petiole, brownish-yellow.

*Female*. — Length 8.5 mm.

Head similar to that of worker, but with somewhat sharper posterior corners and the clypeus bluntly but distinctly carinate. Thorax long and through the wing insertions considerably broader than the head. Prothorax with rounded sides sloping gradually forward to the neck. Mesonotum longer than broad. Epinotum rounded, without distinct basal and declivous surfaces. Petiole thick anteroposteriorly, especially at the base, but becoming suddenly more attenuated towards the apex in profile, with flattened posterior surface and faintly notched superior border. Legs long and stout.

Less shining than the worker; finely and indistinctly punctate. Mandibles subopaque and densely punctate.

Hairs and pubescence grayish, both much more abundant than in the worker and concealing the shining surface. The scapes and legs with erect hairs like those on the body.

Dark chestnut brown, nearly black, mandibles, clypeus and tarsi reddish. Anterior half of pronotum dull orange. Wings smoky brown, with brown veins and stigma and a single cubital cell.

*Male*. — Length 3.5 mm.

Head, excluding the mandibles, a little longer than broad, subrectangular. Mandibles bidentate, the terminal tooth very long and acute; eyes in front of the middle; cheeks short, slightly concave; posterior corners of head rounded; clypeus

like that of the worker. Antennæ with scape nearly as long as the funicular joints 1 and 2 together, first funicular joint a little longer than broad, remaining joints cylindrical, growing shorter distally. Thorax robust and very convex in the pronotal region, which is distinctly longer than broad. Scutellum projecting, nearly as long as broad. Epinotum similar to that of the female. Petiole like that of the worker. Outer genital lamellæ triangular, with broadly rounded tips, median appendages with finger-shaped process bent at a right angle, inner appendages somewhat uncinatè, convex dorsally and concave ventrally.

Shining, sparsely and very finely punctate, mandibles and clypeus more densely punctate.

Deep black, antennæ and legs piceous, wings considerably paler than in the female.

Described from six workers and single male and female specimens, "found inside bark of dead bottle-brush; characteristic rank smell very strong."

#### CAMPONOTINÆ.

##### 10. *Acantholepis (Stigmacros) clivispina* Forel.

Six workers and a dealated female agree very well with Forel's description of this species. They were found in the "deserted portion (old workings) of a white ant's nest."

##### 11. *Camponotus nigriceps* F. Smith.

"Several soldiers and workers. This ant is the 'sugar ant' commonly found in houses, but it comes forth to forage in the evening. The specimens sent were found remote from towns." Among these was a female specimen of a small myrmecophilous cricket (*Myrmecophila australis* Tepper).\*

##### 12. *Camponotus testaceipes* F. Smith.

Soldiers, workers, males and a female from two colonies. Two Jassids (one immature) were found associated with the specimens in one of the nests.

---

\* See Tepper, Note on a Genus of *Gryllidæ* new to South Australia, and description of a new species of *Myrmecophila*, Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Austr., XX, 1896, pp. 149-151.