



Fig. 4: *Meranoplus hirsutus*, worker, Lake Eacham NP, Queensland, dorsal view. PSW 1.41.

Townsville; Mt. Eliot NP. (20 / 148): Cannon Vale. (20 / 149): Cape Hillsborough NP; N Slope of Mt. Ossa. (21 / 148): Blackwood NP near Kuttatbul; Eungella NP. (21 / 149): 10 km N of Koumala, 30 km S of Sarina. (23 / 150): Rockhampton. (24 / 150): Cania Gorge NP. (26 / 152): Glasshouse Mountains; 30 km W of Kilkoy, foot of Blackall Range; Obi Obi Creek near Mapleton. (27 / 152): Mt. Coot-tha, near Brisbane. **New South Wales:** (28 / 153): Blue Knob Mountain, Night Cap Ranges; Mt. Nullum, near Murwillumbah.

Most northern labels specify rainforest, rainforest edges, gallery rainforest or "scrub". In the south, specimens from the Glasshouse Mountains are labeled "dry sclerophyll"; those from Mt. Coot-tha "med sclerophyll", and from Mt. Nullum "dry sclero, under rock in creek bed". The most southern series (Blue Knob Mt.) is labeled "RF" (= rainforest).

Worker diagnosis: General features as illustrated. Translucent fenestrae at middle and posterolateral sections of promesonotal shield (Fig. 4); shield not strongly arched in frontal view (Fig. 2). Colour as illustrated – generally medium reddish-brown, gaster brightly orange-brown. A distinctively coloured, spinose and hirsute species, relatively heavily sculptured. No other known *Meranoplus* species with similar general colouration or with HWE less than 1.10 mm is as sharply or brightly bicoloured, none have such well-developed promesonotal spination, and few are anything like as densely pilose. No species with equivalent known distribution is at all similar. *Meranoplus hirsutus* is thus readily recognisable using Figs. 1 - 4. There is no apparently significant discernable geographical variation.

Measurements of worker: The smallest and largest specimens (determined by surveying HWE) in a series of 32 workers from 30 km S of Sarina Qld. (ANIC) have the following dimensions: HW 0.83, 1.03; HWE 0.99, 1.23; HL 0.84, 0.98; CI 99, 105; EL 0.17, 0.22; OI 21, 21; PSW 1.24, 1.42; PSL 0.93, 1.12; PSI 125, 126; GW 1.12, 1.52.

Remarks: Nomenclature is based on ANIC lectotype-compared vouchers from Lake Eacham NP (17 / 145), Queensland (TAYLOR 1990: 39). Two specimens from this series are illustrated (Figs. 1 - 3 and Fig. 4 respectively).

***Meranoplus beatoni* sp.n.** (Figs. 5 - 8)

Material examined and distribution: Known only from the unique holotype, worker. Australia: N.E. Queensland: McDowell Range, 17 km N of Daintree, 16° 06' S, 145° 20' E,



Fig. 5: *Meranoplus beatoni* sp.n., holotype worker, lateral view, see description for dimensions.



Fig. 6: *Meranoplus beatoni* sp.n., holotype worker, head, frontal view, see description for dimensions.

27.XI.1985, leg. G. Monteith, ex Berlese funnel sample, sieved rainforest litter (ANIC: holotype – No. 32-029200).

Description of worker: HW 0.80; HWE 0.88; HL 0.73; CI 109; EL 0.19; OI 23; SL 0.53; SI 66; PSW 1.00; PSL 0.77; PSI 130; GW 0.94.

General features as illustrated. Essentially a smaller version of *M. hirsutus*, with a much less well-developed and peripherally elaborated promesonotal shield (cf. Figs. 1 - 4 and 5 - 8). General characteristics otherwise as in *M. hirsutus*, notably the structure and sculpturation of the petiole and postpetiole, which are relatively less massive in *M. beatoni* sp.n. Promesonotal shield differences as illustrated, with all major homologous structures, marginal extensions, fenestrae etc., readily identifiable. Sculpturing of head and promesonotal shield similar, but less reticulate in *M. beatoni* sp.n., with fewer transverse elements between the longitudinal ribs. Gastral dorsum in both species very superficially sculptured and shining; the hair-pits more distinct in *M. hirsutus*. Strongly hirsute, the hairs somewhat relatively short and slightly less abundant than in *M. hirsutus*. Bicoloured much as in *M. hirsutus*, but the ground colour darker and the gaster less brightly differentiated.