

and contains rainforest vegetation. When the type series was collected these ants were fairly common in the upper few kilometres of the canyon, where they were found nesting on the flat sand sheet along the creek which runs through the gorge. The curious thing is that this sand sheet floods during the wet season, completely covering the nesting sites. Even while these collections were being made there were heavy rains overnight which destroyed the conical nest entrances, the ants being forced to repair the damage each morning. It would be interesting to learn how these ants have adapted to life in such a harsh and variable location. (These notes were made by H. Reichel while making the only known collection of this interesting species.)

Conclusion

All Australian species of *Aphaenogaster* are endemic except *pythia*, which is shared with Papua New Guinea. Nests are always in soil, often in the open with large funnel-shaped entrances but also under rocks or logs on the ground. Individual species range from common and widespread to rare and with restricted distributions.

The nomenclature of these species was found to be unexpectedly complex given the small number of species involved. This was primarily caused by the large number of studies dealing with these ants and the lack of examination of type material. Provisional names were proposed and several species were established by indication, in one case using specimens which were not directly examined by the author and, in fact, had been destroyed at the time the name was established. While all of these events are common among the ants, it was surprising to find so many among such a small group.

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