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NOTES ON THE INDO-AUSTRALIAN BASICEROTINE ANTS
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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Summary

Descriptions and figures are given of *Rhopalothrix orbis*, sp. nov., *R. diadema* Brown & Kempf, *Eurhopalothrix procera* (Emery), *E. greensladei*, sp. nov., *E. isabellae* (Mann), and *E. szentivanyi*, sp. nov., together with distributional and systematic notes on other species, and a key to the Indo-Australian fauna of tribe Basicerotini. *R. orbis* is the first species of its genus recorded from Australia. This paper supplements the world basicerotine monograph of Brown and Kempf [*Studia ent.* 3(1-4), 161-250 (1960).]

INTRODUCTION

The disjunctly distributed Neotropical and Indo-Australian myrmicine tribe Basicerotini was monographed by Brown and Kempf (1960). They recognized seven genera with a total of 40 species. One species in *Rhopalothrix* Mayr and nine in *Eurhopalothrix* Brown & Kempf were listed from the Indo-Australian area. These genera have seven and nine species respectively in the New World (including those described by Kempf 1962).

This paper brings up to date the information available on Indo-Australian basicerotines. A second *Rhopalothrix* species (the first recorded from Australia) is described and two new Melanesian *Eurhopalothrix* species are added, along with systematic and distributional notes on some older species, and a key to the Indo-Australian fauna. The Brown and Kempf monograph contains much information regarding synonymy and distribution which is not repeated here.

The following abbreviations are used for the institutions noted:

- ANIC Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra.
- BPBM Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- BM(NH) British Museum (Natural History), London.
- BSI Department of Agriculture, Honiara, British Solomon Islands Protectorate.
- MCZ Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- QM Queensland Museum, Brisbane.
- USNM United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.

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