

The procera Group

The following species are included: *procera*, *emeryi* (Forel), *isabellae*, *greensladei*, sp. nov., and *szentivanyi*, sp. nov.; their distributions are summarized in the key above.

The workers are usually longer than in the *brevicornis* group (HW exceeding 0.89 mm in all species except *E. isabellae*, which has a minimum known HW of 0.72 mm), and they have similarly shaped heads. The mesosomal profile is more or less distinctly "stepped," with the propodeal dorsum lower than the promesonotal. The pronotal dorsum is usually obtusely gibbous on each side, and the postpetiolar dorsum has a median longitudinal impression separating a pair of convex tumosities. Sculpturation of individual specimens is less uniform than in the *brevicornis* group. All species except *E. emeryi* have a single pair of erect hairs on the verticoccaput, and erect humeral hairs are present in *E. procera* and *E. greensladei*. In *E. emeryi* the hairs of the ground pilosity are longer, more abundant, and more prominent than in the other species; some workers have several slightly enlarged suberect hairs on the vertex and a pair on the humeri, which are possibly homologous with the erect hairs of the other species. *E. procera* has specialized erect hairs in 2 longitudinal rows on the first gastric tergite; maximally there are 8, but they show geographical variation in number. Six to 10 similar hairs are present in queens (but not workers) of *E. emeryi*; they are lacking in the other species.

The mandibles are triangular and usually have convex outer borders. Important exceptions are *E. isabellae* and *E. szentivanyi*, which have the outer borders concave and the basal borders oblique, leaving a more or less triangular or semicircular gap between the clypeus and mandibles when the latter are closed (Figs. 9, 12). The mandibular dentition consists of a single row of high conical teeth in all species except *E. isabellae*, which has a broad lamellate basal tooth, about twice as wide at its base than the preceding teeth (Fig. 11). Variation in sculpturation and pregastric pilosity in all species, except *E. emeryi*, is almost encompassed by intraspecific variation in the widespread and probably primitive *procera*. It seems likely that *E. isabellae* is derived from a *procera*-like ancestor through stock similar to *E. greensladei*, while *E. emeryi* and *E. szentivanyi* are apparently derived separately from *procera*-like stock.

The group is probably descended ultimately from *brevicornis*-like ancestors. However, the similarly reduced erect cephalic pilosity of the *brevicornis* group species *philippina*, discussed above, is probably a convergent development, and need not indicate direct relationship between this species and the *procera* group.

EURHOPALOTHRIX PROCERA (Emery)

(Fig. 8)

Rhopalothrix procera Emery, 1897, p. 572.*Eurhopalothrix procera*: Brown and Kempf, 1960, p. 225.

Specimens constituting the following new records confirm the details of geographical variation reviewed by Brown and Kempf (1960, pp. 228-30, fig. 56). PAPUA: Brown R. (18 workers from rotting branch, primary lowland rain forest) June 1962, R. W. Taylor (Acc. No. 2013), ANIC, MCZ. BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS: YSABEL: Regi (one worker, in log, native garden), 22.vii.1963. SAVO: