

# A SUPPLEMENT TO THE REVISION OF AUSTRALIAN *PRISTOMYRMEX* SPECIES (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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## Abstract

Two new *Pristomyrmex* species are described from Mt. Lewis, N. Queensland, and Acacia Plateau, N.S.W. New distributional and biological data on several older species are presented.

The material discussed below has come to hand since the completion of my recent revision of the Australian *Pristomyrmex* species (Taylor 1965), to which this paper is a supplement. The two new species described here bring the total number known from Australia to six. Material of one of the new species has been generously provided by Professor P. J. Darlington, Jr., of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. Specimens verifying the new distributional records for older species are in the Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra. They were collected mainly by the Rev. B. B. Lowery S.J. of Sydney, whose generosity in making them available is gratefully acknowledged.

Details of measurements and indices are defined in the earlier revision, but the following change has been adopted. Before measuring WL (Weber's length of the mesosoma) the lateral viewing position of queen or worker specimens is adjusted so that the tips of the propodeal spines are aligned (much as shown in Fig. 2). This is done at the centre of the field of view of the measuring ocular, to avoid parallax error, and the specimen is then moved horizontally to align the WL axis with the eyepiece ruler and facilitate measurement. Repeatability of WL measurements is greatly enhanced by this procedure. It was not used in the earlier paper; so that WL values given there are slightly higher than those which would now be obtained.

## *Pristomyrmex thoracicus* Taylor

### New records

N. QUEENSLAND: Palmerston National Park, nesting in soil under logs, rain forest, ca 305 m (5.xi.1966; R. W. Taylor, Accs. 66.261, 66.262). Two colonies, both with entirely larval brood, each with a dealate queen, and with 18 and 3 workers respectively. The larvae vary in size, but probably represent a single generation; many appear almost full-grown. All records of *P. thoracicus* are from the Atherton Tableland at elevations between 300 and 760 m.

## *Pristomyrmex wilsoni* sp. n.† (Figs. 1, 2)

*Type locality*.—N. QUEENSLAND: Mt. Lewis (16°34'S, 145°17'E), near Julatten (30-31.x.1966; R. W. Taylor, Accs. 66.150, 66.160).

The holotype and paratypes were taken individually, straying on the surfaces of rocks and logs in rain forest at an elevation of about 915 m. Collections were made on two overcast days, but not on a third, which was brightly sunny. Strays were not seen during several hours night collecting (to about four hours after sunset) at the same locality.

*Type deposition*.—*Holotype* and four *paratypes* in Australian National Insect Collection, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra (Type No. 7502); two *paratypes* in Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.; and one in Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

### Type workers

The following description is based on the holotype and seven paratype workers.

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†This species is named for my friend Professor Edward O. Wilson, of Harvard University.