soma, petiole and postpetiole. This variant is apparently produced wherever *quadridentatus* is sympatric with the related *P. wheeleri* (Taylor 1965).

New records (Unless otherwise indicated all of the following collections were made in rain forest by B. B. Lowery).

(1) *Self-coloured form.*—NEW SOUTH WALES: Brunswick Heads, faunal reserve, two colonies nesting *ca* 5 cm above ground under bark sheaths of Bangalow palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), swampy flat of creek bed, near sea level (6.ix.1966, 5.ix.1967). Warrell Creek, near Macksville, colony from red-rotten log, *ca* 46 m (21.viii.1964). Upper Allyn Valley, Lister Park (near Eccleston), dealate queen and series of workers from separate rotting logs; 3 series of workers straying nocturnally on logs, 2-4 hours after sunset, rain forest, *ca* 610 m (11-14.xii.1967; R. W. Taylor and C. G. Brooks).

(2) *Bicoloured form.*—S.E. QUEENSLAND: Numinbah Natural Arch, colony from red-rotten log, *ca* 457 m (3.ix.1964). N.E. NEW SOUTH WALES: Tomewin, *ca* 12.8 km N. of Murwillumbah, 1 worker foraging *ca* 2.4 m above ground on tree, early afternoon, *ca* 366 m (2.ix.1966). Nobby's Creek *ca* 7 km N.W. of Murwillumbah, colony under bark cover of Bangalow palm, *ca* 457 m (30.viii.1967). Mt. Warning State Park, 2 colonies from rotten logs, *ca* 305 m (25.viii.64, 30.viii.1966); colony from under bark sheath of *Archontophoenix* palm, *ca* 5 cm above ground, *ca* 305 m (7.x.1966); a single dealate queen from a red-rotten log, *ca* 610 m (9.x.1965).

Comments

The previously observed distributional correlation between bicoloured *quadridentatus* and *P. wheeleri* is further supported by these records, notably those from Tomewin and Mt. Warning.

The Brunswick Heads and Allyn Valley collections greatly extend the known range of self-coloured *quadridentatus* to points respectively much further north and south than previous records. Moreover, Brunswick Heads is only about 30 km from Mt. Warning State Park, where the bicoloured form occurs (along with *P. wheeleri*). Field investigations of my "character displacement" hypothesis, proposed earlier to explain the variation of *quadridentatus* (Taylor 1965), would thus appear to be a simple matter in this area.

This species has been previously reported nesting mainly in rotting logs; so the records of colonies taken under the bark sheaths of Bangalow palms are interesting. Rev. Lowery reports that many ant species usually found in logs may be taken under palm sheaths in the rain forests of north eastern New South Wales. The nocturnal strays collected in the Allyn Valley showed behaviour exactly like that described for the bicoloured form of this species by Taylor (1965).

Pristomyrmex wheeleri Taylor

New records (All of the following collections were made in rain forest by B. B. Lowery).

N.E. NEW SOUTH WALES: Bilambil area, *ca* 4.8 km N. of Tumbulgum, nests under rocks, one *ca* 800 m (13.ix.1965), one *ca* 150 m (13.ix.1966), two *ca* 240 m (7.ix.1967). Tomewin, nest between rocks, *ca* 457 m (27.viii.1964). Wollumban State Forest near Tyalgum, 4 nests under rocks, *ca* 457 m (31.viii.1964). Mt. Warning State Park, nest between rocks, *ca* 915 m (25.viii.1964); nest in red-rotten log *but* buried about 8 cm below ground level, *ca* 305 m (30.viii.1966). Blue Knob Mt., Nightcap Ranges, N. of Lismore, 6 colonies under volcanic rocks, *ca* 365-915 m (29.ix.1965, 5.ix.1966). Rev. Lowery comments (*in litt.*) that the elevational range of *P. wheeleri* on Mt. Warning is from *ca* 270-915 m, and further confirms that virtually all colonies are found in rain forest nesting in the soil, usually under or between rocks, often in a tangle of small plant roots. In his experience *wheeleri* is absent from sea level rain forest in N.E. New South Wales.

Pristomyrmex erythropygus sp. n.

Type locality.—N.E. NEW SOUTH WALES: Acacia Plateau, near Old Koreelah (*ca* 28°24′S, 152°25′E), in rotting logs (November, 1957; Darlingtons).