Other details are not known, but the type material was probably taken in rain forest at *ca* 600 m (P. J. Darlington, personal communication).

The holotype and paratypes, now pinned separately, were originally assembled on two pins.

Type deposition.—Holotype and three *paratypes* (worker and queen) in Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. (Type No. 31325), two worker paratypes in Australian National Insect Collection, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra.

Type workers

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

Dimensions (holotype cited first): TL *ca* 4.0, 3.8-4.1 mm; HL 1.05, 0.99-1.07 mm; HW 1.17, 1.12-1.21 mm; CI 112, 112-113; SL 0.99, 0.93-0.99 mm; SI 85, 81-87; PW 0.56, 0.56-0.57 mm; WL 0.99, 0.98-1.00 mm; pronotal spine L 0.11, 0.08-0.10 mm; propodeal spine L 0.27, 0.22-0.26 mm; petiole L 0.37, 0.34-0.38 mm; postpetiole height 0.35, 0.34-0.38 mm. One specimen (HW 1.15 mm) has relatively short scapes, yielding the low values for SL and SI given above. Ranges for these dimensions in the other paratypes are SL 0.98-0.99 mm; SI 85-87.

Close to *P. wheeleri* Taylor, and agreeing with its original description (Taylor 1965), except for the following details.

1. Scapes relatively short; when laid in the scrobes, with the head in frontal view, they surpass the level of the median occipital border by less than half their maximum thickness (the occipital border is exceeded by 1-1.5x scape thickness in *P. wheeleri*).

2. Mesosomal armament relatively less developed. Pronotal spines shorter than in either *wheeleri* or *quadridentatus*, and subequal in size to propodeal spines in side view. The latter proportionately a little shorter than in *wheeleri*.

3. Sculpturation generally similar, but the promesonotal dorsum, though shining, is vaguely longitudinally sculptured, with four or five distinct low, smooth rugae on the anteromedian part of its mesonotal portion. This area is entirely smooth and shining in *wheeleri*.

4. Pilosity of head, mandibles, antennae, mesosoma and legs as in *wheeleri*; that of petiole, postpetiole, and gaster very different. Petiole and postpetiole with moderately long bilaterally paired hairs distributed as usual in the *quadridentatus* group (see Taylor 1965, Figs. 8 and 12), and each with several additional pairs of fine, slightly shorter hairs on the crests of their nodes. Gaster, except for anterior half of its first sternite, with a moderately dense cover of long decumbent to suberect hairs. These hairs *ca* 0.05-0.15 mm long and spaced at intervals of about 0.05-0.10 mm on the first gastric tergite, which is quite naked in *wheeleri*, and in all other known Australian *Pristomyrmex* species.

5. Post-cephalic colouration about as in *wheeleri*, head similar in hue to mesosoma, that is, golden brown. Mandibles, antennae, legs, and metasomal structures slightly lighter; first gastric tergite slightly less darkly infuscated than is usual in *wheeleri*.

Paratype queen

A unique dealate queen, originally mounted with two workers of the type series, has the following dimensions:

TL *ca* 4.5 mm; HL 1.12 mm; HW 1.30 mm; CI 116; SL 1.02 mm; SI 78; scutum W 0.80 mm; WL 1.23 mm; propodeal spine L 0.22 mm; petiole L 0.40 mm; postpetiole height 0.40 mm; eye diameter 0.23 mm; ocular index 18. Generally similar to paratype queens of *P. wheeleri*, but with the same distinguishing features of colouration and pilosity seen in the workers. Also, the scapes are relatively short (as in the worker), the pronotal spines are weakly represented by low obtuse tumosities, and the propodeals are relatively small, being subequal in size to the metapleurals.

Comments

P. erythropygus is clearly related to *P. wheeleri* but the differences in mesosomal armament, and especially in gastric pilosity, allow immediate differentiation of the two, and their separate specific status seems assured. It is likely that these species will eventually be found in sympatric association. *P. wheeleri* has not been recorded from Acacia Plateau, but it is known from several localities not too distant from that site (e.g. Woodenbong, Tooloom Range, Unumgar Forest).

REFERENCE

TAYLOR, R. W. (1965).—The Australian ants of the genus *Pristomyrmex*, with a case of apparent character displacement. *Psyche, Camb.* **72**(1): 35-54.