

projected series dealing with Australian ants, based largely on the holdings of the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC). Future examples will differ from this one, because their subject genera will rarely have been previously reviewed or monographed, and many of the included species will be identified using ANIC ant species identification numbers [see Imai, Crozier and Taylor (1977), p. 344]. Such species are operationally not identifiable by name, usually because they have no names, or often because their nomenclature cannot be established without extensive study of the types of possible names, many of which are housed in European or North American museums. These projected guides will thus usually represent the first attempt at a taxonomic overview of the Australian species of their subject genera.

Three names cited here (*O. alligator*, *O. coccinatus* and *O. kanangra*) are proposed conditionally, pending their formal publication. Under Article 15 of *The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* these must be considered "not available" until published in the forthcoming supplement to my 1977 review, referred to above.

Instructions for Reading DELTA Descriptions

The DELTA-format descriptions incorporated in both versions of this paper each comprise a series of numbered entries representing the serially numbered characters of the accompanying list of characters and states. The character numbers are usually followed by a further number in the case of numeric characters, or by a letter in the case of multistate characters. These indicate the state of the appropriate character expressed in the species being described. For example, 1,1.9mm in the *O. chyzeri* description indicates the value 1.9mm for character 1, "Maximum head length". The entry 2,A in the *O. alligator* description translates, through reference to the list of characters and states, to "Shafts of closed mandibles" (Character 2) "more-or-less parallel, apical teeth not notably reduced" (State A). If a character is not applicable to a particular species its number is followed by a dash. For example, character 12 is entered 12,- in the *O. biroi* description because it is not applicable — *biroi* lacks pronotal spines, the states of which are the subject of character 12.

Where two or more numbers or letters are entered as states of a given character the separators between them translate as follows: & represents "and", - represents "to", and / represents "or". Examples are 1,0.88-1.04 and 26,A&C in the description of *O. alligator*, and 3,A/B in that of *O. satan*.

Comments expanding or qualifying the individual descriptive entries are enclosed by angle brackets <thus>. Omitted characters (e.g. No. 16 in all species except *O. antennatus* and *O. sarasini*) have not been scored for the species concerned because they involve special details distinguishing closely similar species but unnecessary in describing others.

The Program KEY Output

KEY output includes a standard bracket key published with both versions of the paper. In addition a tabular key and a species/character matrix are given with the microfiche edition. The matrix embodies essentially the same information as the DELTA-format descriptions. The characters and states listed for KEY differ slightly from those of DELTA,