

Melanesian Ants of the Genus *Amblyopone* (Hymenoptera : Formicidae)

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Abstract

The known Melanesian ants of genus *Amblyopone* are reviewed, with a key to species and comprehensive scanning electron micrograph illustrations of each. They are: *A. noonadan* Taylor (New Britain); *A. papuana*, sp. nov. (New Guinea); *A. celata* Mann (eastern Solomon Islands); *A. gnoma*, sp. nov. (Guadalcanal) and *A. australis* Erichson (New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, New Hebrides; also widespread in Australia, New Zealand and Tasman Sea islands). The name '*A. australis*' is currently applied to a complex of closely related, intractable, biological species.

Introduction

This paper supplements Wilson's (1958) review of the Melanesian Amblyoponini, in which two *Amblyopone* species were recognized, *A. celata* Mann and *A. australis* Erichson. An additional species, *A. noonadan*, was described by Taylor (1965), and two further new species, *A. papuana* and *A. gnoma*, are added here.

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830 Abbreviations for measurements are explained in the description of *Amblyopone papuana* (p. 828). CI is Cephalic Index ($HW \times 100/HL$). Measurements are given in millimetres and were made with an eyepiece ruler reading directly to 0.01 mm at $\times 100$ magnification.

The plates are micrographs prepared by the author with a J.E.O.L. JSM U3 scanning electron microscope. The illustrated specimens have been gold-palladium coated. They include the holotypes of the new species *A. papuana* and *A. gnoma*; these each had original coloration conforming with that of their paratypes.

The following abbreviations are used for institutions:

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| ANIC | Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra |
| BISHOP | B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii |
| BM(NH) | British Museum (Natural History), London |
| CM | Natural History Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark |
| DASF | Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea |
| GM | Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland |
| MCZ | Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. |