

Type specimens of *Amblyopone minuta* (Forel) (Sumatra), *A. besucheti* Baroni Urbani (La Digue, Seychelles Is) and *A. zwaluwenburgi* (Williams) (Oahu, Hawaii) were kindly loaned for study by Dr C. Besuchet (GM) and Mr G. M. Nishida (BISHOP). These specimens, along with types or confidently identified examples of most other species known from South-East Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands [see list in Brown (1960)], have been checked to certify their status as representatives of species separate from those discussed here.

The Australian species of *Amblyopone* will be reviewed shortly in a companion paper.

Key to the Melanesian *Amblyopone* Species (Workers)

1. *a* (Figs 13–16.) A minute (HW 0.29–0.32 mm), narrow-headed (CI 73–74) species with 10-jointed antennae. Guadalcanal *A. gnoma*, sp. nov.
- b* Much larger (HW > 0.60 mm), broad-headed (CI > 87) species with 12-jointed antennae 2
- 2(1). *a* (Figs 17–20.) Larger species (HW > 1.5 mm); posterior third of frons generally smooth, with scattered punctae, contrasting with striate-rugose anterolateral areas; mandibular teeth in a single rank; anterior clypeal border transverse, with a series of spaced, simple minute denticles; inferior angles of pronotum dentiform. New Guinea to Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, New Hebrides (widespread elsewhere in Australia, New Zealand and Tasman Sea islands) *A. australis* Erichson
- b* Smaller species (HW < 1.2 mm); sculpture of frons of generally similar density throughout; mandibular teeth double-ranked; anterior clypeal border projecting forwards, bearing a series of denticles each almost as large as the mandibular teeth; inferior pronotal angles broadly rounded 3
- 3(2). *a* (Figs 1–4.) Larger species (HW > 0.96 mm); genal teeth strongly developed, subequal in size to the mandibular apices beyond the first (tiny reclinate) teeth of their masticatory margins; frons coarsely punctate-rugose, sculptural trend mostly longitudinal but transverse posteriorly; dorsolateral margins of pronotum and propodeum submarginate. New Britain *A. noonadan* Taylor
- b* Smaller species (HW < 0.84 mm); genal teeth present but very reduced; cephalic sculpture very densely, finely, and quite evenly punctate ('shagreened'); dorsolateral angles of pronotum and propodeum rounded 4
- 4(3). *a* (Figs 5–8.) Anterior clypeal border strongly projecting, with teeth arrayed as in Fig. 6; colour dark reddish brown with lighter mandibles, antennae and legs. E. New Guinea *A. papuana*, sp. nov.
- b* (Figs 9–12.) Anterior clypeal border less strongly projecting, with teeth as in Fig. 10; colour more or less evenly bright golden brown. Solomon Is., east from New Georgia and Santa Ysabel *A. celata* Mann

Amblyopone noonadan Taylor (Figs 1–4)

Amblyopone noonadan Taylor, 1965, p. 6, figs 3, 4, worker.

Type-locality. New Britain: Yalom.

This distinctive species requires no further characterization apart from that of key couplets 1*b*, 2*b*, and 3*a*, and the accompanying figures. The median-dorsal posterior pronotal border of the paratype, illustrated in Fig. 3, is somewhat 'peaked'. This is an artifact due to shrinkage of the specimen.

Each mandible carries seven paired or single teeth: (1) The usual very small reclinate, apically directed, subapical tooth. (2–5) A median series of four sets of sharp, acute paired teeth, subequal in size, with the third pair slightly the largest. The elements of each dental pair are similar in size, with the dorsal slightly smaller