

I have checked *A. zwaluwenburgi* (Oahu, Hawaii) as a possible junior synonym of *A. celata*, with negative result (see details below, p. 833).

*A. celata* is one of a very few ponerine ants reported to lack pupal cocoons (Mann 1919).

#### Relationships

The affinities of *A. celata* seem to be Asian rather than Australian. This species is apparently related to those of the South-East Asian *silvestrii* group, through *A. papuana* and *A. luzonica*. The species in my experience most like *A. celata* is one of somewhat smaller size, collected in the Gombak Valley, near Kuala Lumpur, W. Malaysia (R. W. Taylor, 13 July 1968) (ANIC). This does not match paratypes of *A. minuta* (GM), and is evidently undescribed. Small *Amblyopone* are not easily collected, and there are doubtless some, if not many, species awaiting discovery in the tropical parts of the Indo-Australian area.

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A.  
celata,  
p. 830  
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#### *Amblyopone gnoma*, sp. nov. (Figs 13-16, 22)

*Type-locality.* **Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal I.:** *Kukum-Mt Austen Road.* Kukum is a research farm near Honiara (9° 28' S., 159° 52' E.).

#### *Distribution and Material Examined*

Known only from Guadalcanal. All specimens were collected by Dr P. J. M. Greenslade and the accession numbers given below are his.

**Solomon Islands: Guadalcanal:** *Kukum-Mt Austen Road* (Type locality), holotype worker, 10.viii.1966 (acc. 23,445); *Mt Austen*, alate female, 4.x.1966 (acc. 11,640); dealate female, Mar. 1966 (acc. 21,296); worker, 28.iii.1966 (acc. 22,470); *Mt Malukuna*, alate female, c. 3000 ft, 9.iv.1966 (acc. 22,662).

*Type deposition.* Holotype and all female paratypes in ANIC (type No. 7525); worker paratype in MCZ.

#### *Worker Diagnosis*

*Dimensions.* (Holotype, paratype; refer above under *A. papuana* for explanation of abbreviations): TL c. 1.8, 1.9; HL 0.40, 0.43; HW 0.29, 0.32; SL 0.19, 0.21; ML 0.22, 0.24; PW 0.21, 0.22; WL 0.46, 0.51; dorsal petiolar length 0.16, 0.17; petiolar node width 0.18, 0.19; dorsal postpetiolar length 0.15, 0.16; postpetiolar width 0.21, 0.23.

General features as in Figs 13-16. Distinguished from all other known *Amblyopone* species by the combination of minute size, 10-jointed antennae and double ranked mandibular teeth. The dentition (Fig. 14) includes a tiny reclinate subapical tooth, followed by a median series of four sets of paired teeth of about equal size, with the first pair slightly the smallest, the third largest. The elements of each dental pair are progressively less closely associated through the series until the fourth, in which the dorsal element, which is also reduced in size, is displaced apically by about one-third the distance separating the third and fourth ventral teeth. There are in addition two small, erect, unpaired acute basal teeth, the first slightly lower and more sharply pointed than the second (Fig. 14). There are no traces of eyes. Colour pale yellowish brown, the mandibles, antennae and legs a shade lighter.

cont'd on p. 832-834