

35–40 minute, distinct facets. Ocelli relatively quite large, about 0·02 mm in diameter. Palpal formula (2 specimens, 1 dissected), *Maxillary* 3 : *Labial* 2. All specimens have complete mesosomal structure, and are, or were, clearly fully alate. Wing venation (Fig. 22) more reduced than in any other known amblyoponine ant (or ponerine, except *Probolomyrmex*). Forewing with distinct stigma and closed 'costal', 'median', 'submedian' and 'radial' cells, enclosed by the usual veins, which are easily identified by comparison with a 'complete' wing like that of *A. celata* (Fig. 21). Hindwing with a single weak vein, presumably representing *R+Sc*. Colour as in workers.

### *Relationships*

I have closely checked four other species in considering the possible identity of *A. gnoma*: (1) The Sumatran *A. minuta* (Forel [two syntype workers from GM collection examined; presumably those discussed by Brown (1960 p. 196)]. As Brown's redescription implies, this species is quite different from *A. gnoma*. The specimens have the following dimensions: HL 0·58; HW 0·49, 0·50; SL 0·30, 0·31; ML 0·41; PW 0·31, 0·32; WL 0·75 (smallest specimen only measured); dorsal petiolar length 0·28; petiolar node width 0·30; dorsal postpetiolar length 0·23, 0·24; postpetiolar width 0·36, 0·37. The antennae are 12-jointed. (2) The Hawaiian *A. zwaluwenburgi* (Williams) (headless and damaged holotype worker examined, BISHOP). This specimen also could not be conspecific with the *A. gnoma* type. Its dimensions are: PW 0·25; WL 0·50; dorsal petiolar length 0·16; petiolar node width 0·22. (3) The neotropical *A. degenerata* of Borgmeier (1957), of which I have seen no specimens. This species, which is known from Brazil and Surinam (Kempf 1961), is very similar to *A. gnoma* in size and general features. Its antennae, however, are seven-jointed, and the mandibular teeth single-ranked. These matters have been confirmed separately by Professor W. L. Brown, jr, and the late Fr W. W. Kempf, using specimens in the MCZ and Borgmeier-Kempf collections (personal communications). This species is therefore adequately distinct from *A. gnoma*. (4) *A. besucheti* Baroni Urbani, recently described from La Digue I., Seychelles Is (Baroni Urbani 1978). This species is clearly close to *A. gnoma*; indeed, the two could well be cognate in their genus.

I have examined the holotype and two worker paratypes of *A. besucheti* (GM), and attribute to that species a worker and a dealate female deposited in the ANIC, and labelled: **Singapore:** *University of Singapore campus*, worker, June 1964, *Imperata* grassland soil; *Bukit Timah National Park*, dealate female, 4.x.1965, degraded coastal hill forest on granite (Murphy berlesate No. 124). These were collected by D. H. Murphy. The worker conforms to the *besucheti* original description, and closely matches the types of that species; there can be little doubt that the female is conspecific.

These specimens have the following *Dimensions* (worker, female; abbreviations as above): TL *c.* 1·8, 1·9; HL 0·40, 0·39; HW 0·29, 0·29; SL 0·20, 0·20; ML 0·23, 0·22; PW 0·20, 0·24; WL 0·45, 0·51; dorsal petiolar length 0·16, 0·15; petiolar node width 0·18, 0·18; dorsal postpetiolar length 0·14, 0·13; postpetiolar width 0·21, 0·22. Note that SI (abbreviated as ISC) was expressed as  $SL \times 100/HL$  by Baroni Urbani in the original description. It is given, more conventionally, as  $SL \times 100/HW$  in this paper.

All available specimens of *A. besucheti* and *A. gnoma* have been considered in preparing the following list of characters by which *gnoma* differs from *besucheti* (compare figs 15 and 16 of Baroni Urbani (1978) with Figs 13–16):