

- (1) Mandibular dentition. Workers of both species consistently have four sets of paired mandibular teeth; however, in *gnoma* the dorsal element of the fourth (basal) set is displaced apically from its partner. Queens of *gnoma* resemble their workers, but the Singapore *besucheti* queen has only three sets of paired teeth, the fourth set being represented by a single (ventral) tooth.
- (2) Clypeal dentition. The median clypeal tooth is single in all *besucheti* specimens, but represented by a pair of median teeth in *gnoma* specimens.
- (3) Palpal formula. Two *gnoma* females have *Maxillary* 3 : *Labial* 2, as reported above. Baroni Urbani found *Maxillary* 1 : *Labial* 2 in the worker of *besucheti*. The palpi are obscured in the *gnoma* worker paratypes, precluding a count of their segments.
- (4) The Singapore queen has 11-jointed antennae; those of *gnoma* females are 10-jointed, as in the workers.
- (5) The ocelli of *gnoma* females are larger and more distinct than those of the *besucheti* female.

These differences are consistent in the available material. If they remain so as more specimens come to hand my separation of these species will be supported. It seems certain that *besucheti* and *gnoma* are closely related, perhaps representing south-eastern Asian and Melanesian siblings. The Seychelles population of *besucheti* could be derived from a human introduced propagule of south-eastern Asian origin. These ants could be very easily transported in small amounts of soil attached to plants, root crops etc.

*Amblyopone gnoma* is one of several known very small members of its genus. Despite its aberrant wing venation, reduced number of antennomeres, relatively slender stature, short antennae and legs, and the lack of eyes in the worker, *A. gnoma* is not as structurally reduced as are some other small *Amblyopone* species. *A. degenerata* has only seven antennomeres, though the second segment of the funiculus shows feeble traces of sutures, suggesting that it is comprised of three original segments (Borgmeier 1957; Kempf, personal communication). In addition, unlike *gnoma*, *degenerata* has mandibular dentition consisting of a single rank of teeth. In this regard *A. tropicalis* Brown (Barro Colorado I., Panama) is neatly intermediate between *degenerata* and more conservative Neogean species. Its mandibular teeth are partly double-ranked, but the dorsal rank consists of short spurs, each 'representing a vestigial twin of a pair' (Brown 1962). Elsewhere among *Amblyopone* species reduction of the mandibular dentition to a single row has occurred mainly among some of the larger Australian species (Brown 1960). Funicular segment counts of lower than 11 have been reported only for the two species discussed above.

The wing venation of *gnoma* females (Fig. 22) is relatively very reduced. Elsewhere in *Amblyopone* reduction of venational elements consists almost exclusively in the complete or partial deletion of vein *R*<sub>5</sub> 2·3 (see Fig. 21). Details of wing venation are not known for *A. degenerata*.

A further minute and undescribed *Amblyopone*, from north Queensland rain forests, is represented in the ANIC. This species is almost as small as *A. gnoma*; it has 12-jointed antennae, and single-ranked mandibular dentition. *A. smithi* Brown (type locality near Mt Lofty, S.A.) is almost as small, but has both the antennal segmentation and mandibular dentition unreduced (Brown 1960).