

AUSTRALIAN AND MELANESIAN ANTS OF THE GENUS *EURHOPALOTHRIX* BROWN AND KEMPF—NOTES AND NEW SPECIES (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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Abstract

Two species are described as new: *E. hoplites* (Papua New Guinea) and *E. insidiatrix* (Vanua Levu, Fiji Islands). Both are illustrated with scanning electron micrographs, as are *E. szentivanyi* Taylor and *E. emeryi* (Forel). Notes are given on distribution and variation of several previously described species.

Introduction

The myrmicine ant genus *Eurhopalothrix* (tribe Basicerotini) was established and monographed by Brown and Kempf (1960). Subsequently new species were described by Kempf (1962, 1967), Snelling (1968) and Taylor (1968, 1970). Currently 23 species are named, 12 of them Indo-Australian and 11 Neotropical. My 1968 paper and its 1970 supplement reviewed those species then known from the Indo-Australian area. In this further supplement I describe two new species, *E. hoplites* from Papua New Guinea and *E. insidiatrix* from Fiji, and present notes on various previously described species, all of them exclusively Australian or Melanesian in distribution, except the widespread S.E. Asia-based *E. procera* (Emery). Apart from *E. procera* only one species, *E. philippina* Brown and Kempf, has so far been reported from the Oriental Region. In recent years, however, a number of undescribed species from West Malaysia and Borneo have accumulated in the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), CSIRO, Canberra, and the British Museum (Natural History), London [BM(NH)]. These will be reviewed elsewhere.

Workers of the new species, and of the New Guinean *E. szentivanyi* Taylor and the Fijian *E. emeryi* (Forel), are illustrated with a standard set of micrographs, comprising a frontal view of the head, with dorsal and lateral views of the mesosoma and waist nodes. I prepared these using a J.E.O.L. JSM U3 scanning electron microscope. The illustrated specimens, which include the holotypes of both new species, have been gold coated for microscopy. Each has been mounted with an uncoated specimen selected to match its coloration before coating.

All measurements are given in millimetres. Abbreviations and conventions for measurements and indices follow those of Taylor (1968). Abbreviations for some institutions are indicated above; others include: GM = Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva; HNM = Hungarian National Museum, Budapest; MCZ = Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge; NZAC = New Zealand Arthropod Collection, Entomology Division, DSIR, Auckland; USNM = United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

Measures of distance and elevation, whether metric or imperial, are given as on the original data labels.

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Eurhopalothrix brevicornis (Emery)

New records.—PAPUA NEW GUINEA: SEPIK PROVINCE: Passam, near Wewak, ca 270 m; Yawasora, near Wewak, ca 50 m; Hayfield, near Maprik, ca 150 m. MOROBE PROVINCE: near Lae, ca 50 m; Bulolo, ca 2300 ft, 17.xii.1972, BBL. CENTRAL PROVINCE: 8 km S of Kokoda, ca 800 m; Popondetta, ii.v.1972, PMR. (All ANIC, unless stated otherwise all rain forest berlesates, collected between 1.vi.1972 and 5.vii.1972 by RWT.) SOLOMON ISLANDS: SANTA ISABEL: NE of Tatamba Raja, litter, rain forest, 30.ix.1965, PNL-Brit. Roy. Soc. Expedition [ANIC, BM(NH)]; 1,000 Ships Bay, opposite Lilihinia Island, litter, rain forest, 20.ix.1965, PNL-Brit. Roy. Soc. Expedition [BM(NH)]. NGGELA: Soso, 2.xii.1965, PJMG (acc. 20995) (ANIC). GUADALCANAL: Mt Austen, 24.viii.1965, PJMG (acc. 19285) (ANIC).