

Eurhopalothrix biroi (Szabó)

New records.—PAPUA NEW GUINEA: MOROBE PROVINCE: near Lae, ca 50 m; "Timber Track", ca 16 km NW of Lae, ca 220 m; Bulolo, berlesates, rain forest, ca 2300 ft, 14, 17.xii.1967, BBL. CENTRAL PROVINCE: 8 km S of Kokoda, ca 800 m; near Kokoda, ca 500 m; Kokoda, 22.vii.1973, PMR; Popondetta, vi.1972-vii.1973, PMR; Tagao Rd, 26.vii.1973, PMR. (All ANIC, unless stated otherwise all rain forest berlesates, collected between 1.vi.1972 and 17.vi.1972 by RWT.)

Known distribution, variation

Apparently widespread in northern mainland New Guinea; previously reported from localities near Madang or Lae, and on the Huon Peninsula.

The available specimens frequently have worn vestiture, as is usual in basicerotine ants. However the material from Central Province listed above appears consistently to have the hairs of the ground pilosity on the pronotum, petiolar dorsum and gaster much finer and less inflated than those of the material from Morobe Province. Four syntypes from the Hanseman Mts (HNM, kindly loaned by Dr J. Papp) match the Morobe Province specimens in these details.

Eurhopalothrix hoplites sp. n. (Figs 1-3)

Types.—PAPUA NEW GUINEA: SEPIK PROVINCE: Passam, near Wewak, berlesate, rain forest, ca 270 m, 5.vii.1972, RWT, *paratype* worker (ANIC). CENTRAL PROVINCE: Lejo Rd, near Popondetta (TYPE-LOCALITY), 9.vii.1973, PMR, *holotype* worker (ANIC, Type No. 7521).

Worker

Dimensions (holotype cited first).—TL ca 4.8, 4.5; HL 1.06, 1.05; HW 1.08, 1.01; CI 102, 96; ML 0.23, 0.22; MI 22, 21; SL 0.63, 0.62; SI 58, 57; maximum diameter of eye 0.08, 0.09; PW 0.72, 0.69; WL 1.17, 1.18; petiolar node width 0.36, 0.34; postpetiole width 0.69, 0.64; gastral width 0.92, 0.89.

Description.—General features as in Figs 1-3. Outer borders of mandibles feebly concave, basal tooth unspecialised. Front of head almost entirely and evenly convex, except for a slight transverse impression across the median fronto-clypeal region. Mesosomal profile broken only by slight indentations between its pronotal, mesonotal and propodeal sections. Promesonotal suture represented dorsally by a slight depression which does not break the sculpture; metanotal groove slightly more distinct. Ventral carinae of petiole not serrated. Postpetiole almost lacking a median longitudinal depression.

Head, mandibles and scapes feebly shining, with a dense, largely effaced fine punctate-rugosity, more distinct on mandibles, clypeus and scapes. Mandibular teeth minutely transversely arched-striate. Antennal fossae smooth and shining, with traces of transverse carinae posteriorly. Dorsa of mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole coarsely punctate-rugose; sides of mesosoma similar, except the mes- and metepisternites, which are smooth and shining, with a few ventral punctures. First gastral tergite generally smooth and shining, with scattered small punctures and narrow anterior and lateral strips of dense, fine puncturation. The more distal tergites similarly densely punctate. First gastral sternite more coarsely punctate, with a smooth, shining median disc. Legs almost entirely finely punctate-rugose, the sculpture partly effaced on the coxae.

Specialised erect hairs lacking except for a few on leading edges of scapes, and on gastral apex; a few on first gastral sternite, none on its tergite. Ground pilosity of dense, short, yellowish-white hairs associated everywhere with the punctate-rugose sculpturing, lacking where it is absent, except on gastral dorsum, where hairs are minute. Dense fine pubescence limited to antennal funiculi.

Rich deep mahogany-brown, appearing black to the naked eye; antennae and legs a shade lighter.

Notes

This species runs to couplet 12 of my 1968 key to the Indo-Australian Basicerotini. *E. procera* and *E. greensladei* Taylor also terminate there. Both are abundantly distinct from *E. hoplites*. They have relatively broad heads (CI 106-110 and 110-114 respectively), less evenly convex mesosomal dorsa, viewed laterally, much weaker postcephalic sculpture, and a pair of specialised erect hairs each on the verticociput and pronotum at least.

Eurhopalothrix greensladei Taylor

New records.—SOLOMON ISLANDS: GUADALCANAL: Mt Austen, 24.viii.1965, ii.1966, iii.1966, PJMG (accs 19284, 21210, 21316, workers); Kukum, 1962, PJMG (acc. 21565, dealate queen). (All ANIC.)

Known distribution

Known only from localities near Honiara, Guadalcanal.