

NOTES ON THE RUSSIAN ENDEMIC ANT GENUS
AULACOPONE ARNOLDI
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)*

BY ROBERT W. TAYLOR
Australian National Insect Collection
CSIRO, Division of Entomology
P. O. Box 1700, Canberra City, A.C.T.
Australia

INTRODUCTION

The ponerine ant genus *Aulacopone*, and its only known species *A. relict*a, were described by Arnoldi (1930) from a unique dealate female collected at Alazapin, near Lenkoran (38° 45'N., 48° 50'E.), in Azerbaydzhan S.S.R., near its border with Iran. The specimen was taken in galleries of the formicine ant *Lasius emarginatus* (Olivier), under the bark of an oak stump, in Talisch mid-montane forest. The holotype, which I have not seen, is reportedly in the collection of the Zoological Institute, Leningrad. A second, previously unreported dealate female of *A. relict*a, now in the Arnoldi collection at the Institute of Evolutionary Animal Morphology, Moscow, was taken by Arnoldi on Mt. Gugljaband, near Alekseevka, Azerbaydzhan, in 1936. The only important reference to this species, apart from Arnoldi's paper, is in Brown's (1958a) reclassification of tribe Ectatommini. These articles by Arnoldi and Brown are essential references to this paper.

Aulacopone is the only extant genus of subfamily Ponerinae with known distribution limited to some part of Holarctica. In addition it is one of only two ant genera known exclusively from the Soviet Union, the other being *Rossomyrmex* Arnoldi (subfamily Formicinae).

Following a recent visit to Moscow (under the Australia/U.S.S.R. Science Exchange Agreement) I was permitted by Dr. Arnoldi and Dr. A. A. Zakharov to carry the over-glued Mt. Gugljaband specimen to Australia on loan, there to re-mount, clean and prepare it for examination by scanning electron microscopy. This paper is the result. The general accuracy of Arnoldi's original description is con-

*Manuscript received by the editor April 18, 1980