

NOTES ON THE ANT GENERA *ROMBLONELLA* AND
WILLOWSIELLA, WITH COMMENTS ON THEIR
AFFINITIES, AND THE FIRST DESCRIPTIONS
OF AUSTRALIAN SPECIES
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE: MYRMICINAE)

BY ROBERT W. TAYLOR*

INTRODUCTION

The new species *Romblonella heatwolei* (Wyer Island, Torres Strait, Queensland) and *Willowsiella anderseni* (King Edward River, Kimberley District, Western Australia) are described below, and their affinities discussed. The genera, which are both new to the Australian fauna, are recognized as probable sister taxa in the tribe Leptothoracini, close to *Leptothorax* Mayr and *Cardiocondyla* Emery.

Genus *Romblonella* Wheeler, 1935

The originally monotypic genus *Romblonella* and its type-species *R. grandinodis* were described by Wheeler (1935) from the small central Philippines Island of Romblon (12°33'N; 122°17'E). Two species congeneric with *grandinodis* had in fact been described previously in the genus *Tetramorium* Mayr, namely *R. scrobiferum* (Emery, 1897) (Berlinhafen (= Aitape) (03°10'S; 142°17'E), Papua, New Guinea), and *R. elysii* (Mann, 1919) (Malaupina (= Malapina) I. (09°51'N; 160°50'E), Three Sisters Is, Solomon Islands) (Smith, 1956).

Four additional species were later described by Marion R. Smith, as follows: *R. townesi* (1953A; Mt. Lasso, Tinian I. (14°58'N; 145°38'E), Northern Mariana Is); *R. vitiensis* (1953A; Wakaya I. (17°39'S; 179°01'E), Lomaiviti Group, Fiji Is); *R. yapensis* (1953A; Yap I. (09°30'N; 138°09'E), Caroline Is); and *R. palauensis* (1953B; Ulebsechel (= Auluptagel, = Aurapushekaru) I., Belau (= Palau) Group (07°03'N; 134°30'E), Caroline Is).

*c/o Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO Division of Entomology, GPO Box 1700, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601, Australia.

Manuscript received by the editor November 12, 1990.