This species is probably present on mainland Australia, at least on northern Cape York Peninsula. It is one of the many New Guinea-based taxa apparently vicariantly isolated in parts of northern Australia, and/or on various Torres Strait Islands by the episodic inundation of the Strait.

Genus *Willowsiella* Wheeler, 1934

Willowsiella and its sole previously reported species *W. dispar* were described from a unique worker taken in 1933 on remote Bellona Island (11°20'S; 159°47'E), south of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands (Wheeler, 1934). There have been no other records of genus or species until the recent unexpected collection of a congeneric worker in the Kimberley district of northern Western Australia. It is described here as *Willowsiella anderseni* n.sp.

The characteristics and possible relationships of *Willowsiella* are discussed below.

Willowsiella dispar Wheeler, 1934
(Figs 4,5)

W. dispar is adequately characterized by Wheeler's description and figures. It is compared below to the new species *W. anderseni.*

The holotype (California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco) is mounted on 2 points, one with the head, mesosoma and petiole, the other with the postpetiole and gaster. It carries a small red tag with the words "HOLOTYPE" (printed) and "*W. dispar*" (hand-written); a large label reading "*Willowsiella dispar* Wheeler (Type)" in Wheeler's handwriting; and four small printed white data labels, reading respectively: "Solomon Islands"; "NW end of Bellona Isd, VI 23-33"; "M. Willows Jr. Collector"; and "Templeton Crocker Exped. 1933".

The specimen has the following dimensions (mm; see above under *Romblonella heatwolei* for explanation of abbreviations): TL ca. 3.2; HL 0.79; HW (across eyes) 0.72, (maximum behind eyes) 0.69; CI 87; SL 0.53; SI 77; PW 0.59; WL 1.00; midline length of petiolar node 0.38; petiolar node width 0.52; midline length of postpetiole 0.24; postpetiole width 0.43.

The ants collected by various expeditions to Bellona and the larger neighbouring Rennell Island have been reviewed by Wilson