nomenclature of all named Australian "*Campomyrma*" species (Taylor 1989). Further information, with some additional synonymy in "*Campomyrma*", is given in Kohout and Taylor (1990).

Type material of all Melanesian taxa relevant here and described by Emery (MCSN) has been examined. *P. dohrni* Forel is not represented in the Forel collection (MHNG). Types of *P. serrata* Fr. Smith, and the distinctive *P. excellens* Viehmeyer could not be located. The latter might have been destroyed in Dresden during World War II.

The ANIC contains about 10 Melanesian species which Emery would have placed in *Aulacomyrma*. Only *P. exarata* Emery and *P. excellens* can confidently be recognised among them. The others are probably undescribed. Type comparison shows *exarata* to be close to *P. sculpta* Emery. "*Aulacomyrma*" (which is perhaps best referred to as the *P. sculpta* species group) might be richly diverse on New Guinea. Almost every available series apparently represents a different species. These ants appear to constitute a lineage or lineages in *Polyrhachis* related to "*Campomyrma*", and characterised by progressive development of heavy, longitudinally costulate sculpturation, and other features, maximally expressed in the aberrant *P. porcata* Emery. The *P. sculpta* group is not known from Australia.

Prolasius Forel

Prolasius has previously been recorded only from Australia and New Zealand. It is here reported for the first time from New Guinea (see below under *P. formicoides*).

Twenty-three Australian species-group taxa were cited in this genus by Taylor and D. R. Brown (1985) and Taylor (1987) in checklists which followed the taxonomic arrangement of McAreavey (1947). No Australian names were listed in these references as junior synonyms, one replaced a former junior homonym, and 4 were listed as subspecies. Nineteen of these taxa were described by the Australians Clark (1934; 5 species) and McAreavey (1947; 14 species). These authors unfortunately did not study type material of the 4 senior species-group names previously established by the European workers André, Forel and Emery. Their work was partly flawed as a result. McAreavey seems in addition to have paid scant attention to Clark's types, and to similarities between his own putative species, which seem frequently to outweigh the differences alleged to separate them.

McAreavey's former collection, including some secondary types of his *Prolasius* species, is now incorporated in the ANIC (see notes below under *Stigmacros*). His *Prolasius* holotypes, and most paratypes, are in the MVMA. Many of the specimens are broken and otherwise in poor condition, partly due to incrustation by a white powder, which is believed to be DDT or another insecticide applied by McAreavey to "protect" them (testé B. B. Lowery). Some have been cleaned and remounted for this study, and some original points and pins have been replaced. The ANIC also contains topotypical series of several *Prolasius* species described by McAreavey or Clark. These have provided paradigms for comparison with relevant MVMA holotypes. They bear no type-indicative labels, but some could be from original series or type-colonies, judging from the labelling and original mounting details. Several undescribed *Prolasius* species are also represented in the ANIC, most of them donated by Fr. B. B. Lowery.

I have examined types of all Australian names available in *Prolasius*, except *P. depressiceps* (Emery) (Katoomba (33/150), N.S.W.), which for that reason has not been considered in the following synonymic analysis. Cross-comparison of this material, and consideration of substantial ANIC holdings in *Prolasius*, convincingly supports the nomenclatural changes to follow. These either synonymise or raise to species all former subspecific names in the genus, and reduce the tally of valid named Australian species to 18. The relevant type localities and types examined (all workers) are indicated. Unless otherwise stated each series discussed is mounted on a single pin. It seems probable that further synonymies would result from a detailed study of the genus.