

## Discovery of Worker Caste in *Trachymesopus darwinii* (FOREL, 1893)

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The bizarre ponerine ant, *Trachymesopus darwinii*, has been known only from the female caste since FOREL's description (1893). Although this species is widely distributed from the tropical Africa to the Indo-Australian Region, most of the cases included only alate females attracted by light (CHAPMAN & CAPCO, 1951; WILSON, 1958; BROWN, 1963).

Recently I had the good fortune to examine a colony sample of this species, including female and worker castes, from Okinawa-hontô Island, the Ryûkyûs. In this short paper I will briefly describe the worker caste of *Trachymesopus darwinii* with illustration.

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### *Trachymesopus darwinii* (FOREL, 1893)

*Belonopelta darwinii* FOREL, 1893, Anns. Soc. ent. Belg., 37: 460.

*Pachycondyla (Pseudoponera) darwini* [sic]; EMERY, 1901, Anns. Soc. ent. Belg., 45: 46.

*Pseudoponera darwini* [sic]; BINGHAM, 1903, Fauna Brit. India, Hym., 2: 93.

*Euponera (Trachymesopus) darwini* [sic]; EMERY, 1911, Genera Insect., Ponerinae, fasc. 118: 86.

*Trachymesopus darwini* [sic]; WILSON, 1958, Bull. Mus. comp. Zool., 119: 353.

*Description of worker.* Head length 0.92-1.00 mm; head width 0.85-0.92 mm; scape length 0.70-0.74 mm; cephalic index 92-93; scape index 80-83; WEBER's length of alitrunk 1.38-1.48 mm; dorsal pronotal width 0.60-0.65 mm; petiole length 0.38-0.41 mm; petiole height 0.65-0.68 mm; dorsal petiole width 0.43-0.48 mm; total length 4.3-4.9 mm.

Head rectangular, slightly longer than wide, with convex occipital border. Mandible with 7 teeth; apical, basal 3rd and 5th teeth longer than the others; basal mandibular pit absent. Eyes small, consisting of only 2-4 facets. Maxillary palpi 4-segmented; labial palpi 3-segmented. General form of alitrunk and petiole as in Fig. 3. Petiole thick, with developed triangular subpetiolar process. Middle and hind tibiae each with a pectinate spur and smaller simple spur; outer face of middle tibia without spine-like setae. Yellowish pubescence abundant on the body with head; dorsal surface of alitrunk, petiole and gaster with short erect hairs. Color reddish brown to yellowish brown.

*Material examined.* 1 alate female, 6 workers, Nishihara, Okinawa-hontô Is., Japan (nesting in a rotten wood), 9-X-1988, K. MURATA & J. HAMANISHI legs.; 3 alate females, Tomishiro, Okinawa-hontô Is., Japan (at light), VIII-1987, Y. KUSUI leg.; 1 alate female, Iriomote-jima Is., Japan, 24-VIII-1978, T. NAMBU leg.; 1 alate female, Chihpen, Taitung City, Taiwan (at light), 29-VII-1982, M. TERAYAMA leg.; 1 alate female, Nanshanchi,