

steeply descending posterior face.

Head densely punctate and typically opaque; becoming sublucid on upper third of head in some individuals, because of shiny interspaces between some of the punctures. Mesosoma punctate to coriarius-imbricate and predominately opaque; petiole, postpetiole, and gaster subopaque, covered with numerous fine piligerous punctures. Erect pilosity and appressed pubescence common on most of body, including mesosoma dorsum. Medium to dark brown, the antennae, tibiae, and tarsi variably lighter, often contrastingly so; pronotum and parts of head sometimes lighter in color than gaster; mandibles pale luteous.

*Comments.*— This common, widely distributed species shows considerable geographical variation (particularly in size, sculpture, color, and head shape), but it is at once recognizable by the distinctive shape of the petiolar node. The sudden, subangulate juncture of the dorsal and posterior faces of the node (Fig. 7) is seen in no other related species. Also characteristic of *P. oculatus* are the elongate eyes (see REL and REL2 values), relatively broad head, the (typically) punctate-opaque sculpture of the head, and the shape of the postpetiole in lateral view (summit of postpetiolar node displaced posteriorly relative to other species in the *P. oculatus* group, except *P. schuppi*).

Lectotypes of both *P. oculatus* and *P. implicatus* are designated because the apparent type series of these taxa contain more than one species. In the BMNH, under *P. oculatus*, I found three species: (1) two syntype workers of what is here interpreted to be *P. oculatus*, from Santarem, Brazil; (2) an alate queen of *P. peper*i (Forel), a Central American acacia-ant labelled (obviously erroneously) "Santarem"; and (3) four workers of *P. filiformis*, two of which (from Villanova, Brazil) were labelled as types of *P. oculatus*. The type series of *P. implicatus* in MHNG contains two species: (1) two workers of *P. oculatus*; and (2) one worker of *P. curacaensis*. For nomenclatural stability I have chosen as lectotypes of *P. oculatus* and *P. implicatus* those workers which correspond to the species described (at least as a queen) and illustrated (as a worker, under the name *P. advena*) by F. Smith (1855). The choice of lectotypes is also consistent with Kempf's (1961) concept of *P. oculatus*, which was based on an examination of material in the Hope Collection, Oxford (OXUM) which Kempf considered to represent part of the type series of *P. oculatus*.

The syntype queen of *P. wessoni* (Enzmann) is clearly conspecific with *P. oculatus*. Unfortunately, the type of *P. wessoni tuberculatus* (Enzmann) cannot be located, and second-guessing the identity of Enzmann's creations is an unsatisfying task. Nevertheless there are enough features of the original description (broad head; large eyes; densely punctate, opaque head; petiolar profile similar to that of *P. wessoni*) to support synonymy under *P. oculatus*.

*Biology.*— *P. oculatus* is typically found nesting in dead twigs or branches, in rain forest or at the edge of rain forest, less frequently in open or drier habitats. Specific nest-site records include dead twigs of *Ficus*, *Hampea*, *Inga*, *Vochysia*, and various unidentified lianas; I found one colony in the dead leaf sheath of a *Scheelea* palm.