NEW ANTS OF RARE GENERA AND A NEW GENUS OF PONERINE ANTS

NEAL A. WEBER,
University of North Dakota,
Grand Forks, North Dakota

From collections of ants made by myself in the West Indies and Northern South America, incidental to studies on the biology of fungus-growing ants (Attini),[1] the following remarkable new cerapachyines and ponerines are selected for description.[2]

All types, except that of *Thaumatomyrmex manni*, are in the author's collection. *T. manni* is in the U. S. National Museum.

The members of the Cerapachyinae constitute a separate subfamily linking the Dorylinae with the Ponerinae and in addition merit special attention because of their rarity and distribution.

The finding of two species of two subgenera of *Cerapachys* adds the continent of South America to the distribution of this widespread but discontinuously distributed genus. Of this genus the late Dr. W. M. Wheeler (1922, p. 53) remarked: "It seems hardly possible that species of *Cerapachys, sensu latiore*, are entirely lacking in South America, but none has been found in any of the many extensive collections that have been made on that continent."

Though these ants were taken in Trinidad, this island is only seven miles from the mainland of Venezuela and is South American (Guianan) in all respects rather than West Indian (Lesser Antillean).

Since no specimens of *Cerapachys, sensu strictu*, had been found in the New World, the occurrence of a species in Trinidad is of especial note since it reasonably may be considered endemic. It was found in low forest away from cultivations near the famous Pitch Lake in the southwestern part of the island. The few other species are found in Africa, Madagascar, India, and New Guinea.

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[1]Most of these studies were undertaken while holding a National Research Fellowship in Biology at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, B. W. I.

[2]Drawings made by Miss Helen Wilson.