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ANT LARVAE OF THE SUBFAMILY CERAPACHYINAE

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The Cerapachyinae are a neglected group of ants even among myrmecologists. This may be attributed to a combination of factors; the subfamily is a small one, about one hundred species; all species are rare and sporadic; their colonies are small; nearly all are tropical; they have no spectacular habits or bizarre structures; they are of no economic importance.

Nevertheless, they are a very interesting group phylogenetically, since they show both doryline and ponerine affinities. In fact, they have been included in both subfamilies. Forel in 1893 first recognized the group of genera as a tribe and placed it in the Ponerinae. In 1895 Emery transferred it to the Dorylinae. After protests from Forel and Wheeler he returned it in 1913 to the Ponerinae as the Section Prodorylinae. Wheeler considered the group to be intermediate between the Dorylinae and the Ponerinae and in 1920 elevated it to the rank of subfamily. It is especially significant here that he used larval as well as adult characters to justify this change.

In view of the neglect just mentioned, it is surprising that so many cerapachyine larvae are known: six species representing four of the eight genera.

Subfamily CERAPACHYINAE Forel

Elongate and very slender; subcylindrical; arcuate, i.e., the whole body rather evenly curved ventrally. Segmentation distinct. Spiracles small. Vestigial legs present or absent. Head small; at the anterior end. Mouth parts large and prominent. Head hairs few, short and nearly always simple. Antennae moderately large, with two or three sensilla. Labrum a thick flap, usually small. Mandibles rather feebly sclerotized; typically long and slender; base moderately stout; distal two-thirds narrow and thin; tapering to an apex which is slightly curved backward and medially; medial border serrate. Maxillae lobose; mostly rather long and round-pointed; palp small, a cluster of three to six sensilla or a low elevation bear-