

Genus AMBLYOPONE Erichson

Body hairs simple, slender, flexuous. Anus terminal. Cranium subcircular in anterior view. Head practically naked; hairs very few, simple, exceedingly minute. Labrum very small, subrectangular; not bilobed; posterior surface spinulose, the spinules arranged in short transverse arcuate rows. Mandibles elongate and slender; base feebly sclerotized and only slightly dilated, apex strongly sclerotized; apical tooth slightly curved medially and posteriorly; two stout medial teeth; anterior surface with longitudinal grooves. Labial palp a low elliptical elevation.

Amblyopone australis Erichson.—Plate I, figs. 12-18. Shaped somewhat like a crookneck squash; thorax and first two abdominal somites forming a long slender curved flexible neck. The remainder of the abdomen stout. A welt-like ridge along either side of the abdomen, separating the strongly convex dorsum from the less convex venter, and continued forward as a series of bosses on the sides of the neck. Along each dorsal and ventral margin of ridges and bosses are several curious structures (exudatoria?) of various shapes. Posterior end broadly rounded. Anus terminal. Eleven differentiated somites. Leg vestiges present. Spiracles small. Body hairs moderately numerous, uniformly distributed, flexuous, 0.12-0.2 mm long. Integument spinulose (at least on the ventral surface of prothorax). Head small; cranium subcircular in anterior view. Head hairs very few (about 8) and exceedingly minute (0.009 mm). A few sensilla on the surface of the head. Antennae mounted on slight bulges; small; each with three sensilla. Labrum a moderately thick flap, subrectangular, broader than long; a shallow median notch in the free edge, with a median longitudinal groove on the anterior surface leading upward from the notch; on either side of the notch is a boss bearing three sensilla; anterior surface with numerous sensilla near the free border, posterior with a few sensilla near the base; posterior surface spinulose, the spinules grouped in short transverse arcuate rows. Mandibles long and slender; base feebly sclerotized and only slightly dilated; apical two-thirds subcylindrical and strongly sclerotized; tip curved medially and posteriorly; apex sharp-pointed; anterior surface with longitudinal grooves; with two stout teeth on the medial border near its apical third. Maxillae large, lobose, spinulose; spinules on medial surface coarse; fine spinules in short arcuate rows on the anteroventral surface; palp subcylindrical and moderately long; with two apical sensilla and a lateral finger-like projection bearing an apical sensillum; galea large, finger-like, with two apical sensilla. Labium large, prominent and coarsely spinulose; palp a low elliptical elevation bearing three sensilla, one of which is on the tip of a finger-like projection; opening of sericteries conspicuous. (Material studied: fifteen larvae from New South Wales and Tasmania.)

Wheeler, 1933, p. 75: "The larvae are fed with bisected or entire insects, as the following observations show: . . . devouring an Elaterid beetle nearly an inch long, which the workers had brought in and cut in two at the junction of the prothorax and mesothorax. Two of the larvae had thrust their small, narrow heads and slender necks deeply into the small opening at the anterior end of