

**THE LARVA OF *NOTOSTIGMA*  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE: FORMICINAE)**

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*Abstract.*—The larvae of worker and sexual castes of the ant *Notostigma carazzii* from Australia are described and illustrated.

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We have studied the larvae of 182 genera of ants; that leaves about a hundred genera still to be done. In our 1986 supplement (p. 697) we complained that "our stream of incoming larvae has dwindled to a mere trickle." When we complained to a young colleague that we were not getting additional genera, he replied that the genera we had "not studied were those whose nests are found only by accident . . . . So we looked up the history of the 103 genera which we have not studied: 62% have been reported only once (probably the type nest or only the type specimen), 23% we consider rare and only 15% common."

The chief purpose of the above preamble is to let the reader know how grateful we are to our Australian colleague, Dr. R. W. Taylor, for sending us 160 larvae and 6 workers of that extraordinary ant *Notostigma carazzii*.

*Collection data.* N. Queensland. Boar Pocket, 17°10'S, 145°39'E, in rain forest, nesting in soil, 720 m elevation. Collected by R. W. Taylor, S. Higashi and T. Matsumoto.

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*Caution.* The reliable determination of instar, caste and sex of larvae requires the following specimens: a first-instar larva inside an egg ready to hatch; a second-instar larva inside a first-instar ready to moult; a third-instar larva inside a second-instar larva ready to moult, etc.; and finally a mature larva. Maturity is proved by a prepupa, which will reveal all characters of a mature larva except shape. For further confirmation a worker pupa or a worker is desirable to check size. If the worker caste is polymorphic, a prepupa of each size is required. Mature sexual larvae can be recognized only from prepupae ready to moult to pupae. For immature sexuals we have no rule.

From the above paragraph it follows that even with this magnificent collection of *Notostigma* larvae we cannot determine instars, castes or sex.

Genus *NOTOSTIGMA* Emery

Profile pogonomymecoid (i.e., diameter greatest near middle of abdomen, decreasing gradually toward anterior end and more rapidly toward posterior end, which is rounded; thorax more slender than abdomen and forming a neck, which is curved ventrally). Praesaepium lacking. Body hairs dense, mostly 2- to 4-branched. Head hairs numerous, mostly unbranched. Labrum deeply bilobed; chiloscleres lacking.