

NOTES ON ANT LARVAE: PONERINAE

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Abstract.—The larvae of four species of ants in the genera *Platythyrea*, *Plectroctena* and *Streblognathus* are described. The larvae of *Streblognathus* and *Simopelta* are characterized for the first time. Included also are a few additional references to ponerine larvae found in the literature.

Most of this article is the result of a gift of the larvae of four species of African ants from Martin Villet of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. All these larvae seem weird even to seasoned students of 800 species in 200 genera. *Streblognathus*, which has never been previously studied has unique maxillae and tubercles, which are queer even in a tribe noted for peculiar tubercles. *Platythyrea lamellosa* has hairs which are unique among all known ant larvae; in fact, if they did not have alveolus and articular membrane we would call them tubercles. Even among tubercles they would be unique. *Plectroctena conjugata* has about 1,600 tubercles, which exceeds by far the number in any other species of ant larvae.

Because of Brown's 1975 revision of *Platythyrea* the nomenclature of the species we have studied has become quite confused. The following changes should therefore be made:—*australis* in 1971 becomes *parallela*; *incerta* in 1971 becomes *pilosula*; *Eubothroponera tasmaniensis* in 1971 becomes *Platythyrea turneri*. Under MATERIAL STUDIED in our 1976b *Memoir* (p. 97) change *australis* Forel to *parallela* (F. Smith) and *incerta* Emery to *pilosula* (F. Smith). In our Ten-Year Supplement (1986b) under MATERIAL STUDIED (p. 699) delete *tasmaniensis* (Forel) and "delete *australis*, *incerta*." To summarize, the six species of *Platythyrea* that we have studied previously are *cribrinodis* (Gerstäcker), *inermis* Forel, *modesta* Forel, *parallela* (F. Smith), *pilosula* (F. Smith) and *turneri* Forel.

In 1976a (p. 59) we used the name *Plectroctena* sp. It should be changed to *Plectroctena cryptica* Bolton.

We described a mature larva of one species of *Simopone* in 1986a, but we did not characterize the genus, because we hoped that someone would send us the mature larva of another species. Thus far we have hoped in vain.

The terms used below for describing profiles and mandible shapes are defined in our 1976 *Memoir*. Whenever we refer to our own publications we give only the year.

TRIBE AMBLYOPONINI

Genus *PRIONOPELTA* Mayr*Prionopelta amabilis* Borgmeier

Hölldobler and Wilson (1986:45). "The prey are given directly to the larger larvae."