Notes on some aberrant indonesian Ants of the subfamily Formicinae

by

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In 1919 I described as *Camponotus megalonyx* an aberrant ant found by Dr. William Beebe ,,running on bushes" at Sarawak, Borneo. The specimens comprised two media and two minor workers and were assigned provisionally to the subgenus *Myrmosphincta,* which has since been restricted to certain Neotropical species (*C. sexguttatus* Fabricius and its allies). A decade later (1929) Menozzi redescribed this ant as *Camponotus (Orthonotomyrmex) chalconotus* from a single defective specimen belonging to the late Col. Bingham's collection now in the British Museum. The specimen bore no locality label, but Menozzi believes that it came ,,most probably from India (or Burma)".

Dr. August Stärcke (1934) recently described and figured all the castes of *megalonyx* from specimens collected by F. G. Nainggolan at Peureula, in the province of Atjeh, northern Sumatra, from the hollow ochreae of a creeping ratan palm (*Korthalsia* sp.), and made the interesting discovery that its maxillary palpi and in some individuals also the labial palpi, instead of being 6- and 4-jointed respectively, as in other species of *Camponotus,* show a reduction in the number of their joints. He recognizes five different subcastes of workers, maxima (9.8—11 mm.), major (8—8.3 mm.), media (7—7.5 mm.), minor (5—6 mm.) and minima (4—4.5 mm.). The female measures 15.5—16 mm. and is, therefore, for a *Camponotus,* unusually large compared with the worker maxima. The male small (5.6 mm.) and much like a *Camponotus* male though the genitalia seem to be peculiar. The palpi are very short in all the castes, the maxillary being 5-jointed and the labial pair 4-jointed in the male, female, maxima, major, media and minor, but the labial palpi of the minima have only 3 joints. Dr. Stärcke has therefore made *megalonyx* the type of a new subgenus of *Camponotus, Myrmopalpella*. An examination of all the castes, which he very generously sent me, has suggested the following remarks.