

O. simillimus is the most widely distributed of all Indo-Australian ponerine ants, occurring through most of tropical Asia and the Pacific Region. It does not appear to show significant geographical variation.

Odontomachus ?malignus Fr. Smith

Record: Te-Uhungango, 3 males (Brit. Exp.). Three large, yellow *Odontomachus* males have been tentatively identified as this species. The only members of the genus known from the Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands besides *simillimus* are *emeryi* Mann and *malignus* Fr. Smith. Males have never been associated with workers in either case. Of the two, *malignus* has the wider distribution, being the only one to reach the Santa Cruz Islands, and its ecological range ideally suits it for the colonization of smaller islands (WILSON, 1959a). Moreover, the Te-Uhungango males are closer to the predicted size for *malignus* than they are for *emeryi*.

Cerapachys inconspicua Emery

Record: Hutuna (Brit. Exp.). A single male compares well with definitely determined specimens from the lower Busu River, New Guinea. *C. inconspicua* is the most widespread member of the genus in Melanesia, ranging from Netherlands New Guinea to the eastern Solomons.

?Cerapachys (Syscia) sp.

Record: Te-Uhungango, male (Brit. Exp.). A single specimen has been placed tentatively in *Syscia*. Unfortunately, no males of this subgenus have ever been associated with workers, but the specimen at hand is in or close to *Cerapachys* and seems to show modifications in body form similar to those in the *Syscia* worker caste. Only one species of *Syscia*, *pawa* Mann, has been recorded from the Solomon Islands.

SUBFAMILY MYRMICINAE

Pheidole oceanica Mayr

Records: Hutuna (Brit. Exp.); Te-Uhungango (Brit. Exp.); Tingoa (Brit. Exp.). Minor workers and soldiers. This species ranges, with little or no significant geographic variation, from New Guinea northward into Micronesia and eastward through Melanesia (including New Caledonia) across Polynesia as far east as the Marquesas. It may be native to most or all of this range. In evidence is the fact that the distribution is continuous but strictly limited westward by New Guinea and eastward by the Marquesas. Also, its closest relative is *P. impressiceps* Mayr, which is undoubtedly native to New Guinea.