

ENTOMOLOGY.—*A new ant from Porto Rico.*¹ WM. M. MANN,
U. S. National Museum.

Among ants received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for identification occurred the following interesting new species:

Cerapachys (Syscia) seini, new species.

Worker. Length 2 mm. (Fig. 1).

Head about one-third longer than broad, as broad in front as behind, with slightly convex sides and strongly excavated posterior border and angulate corners. Antennal scapes extending less than half the distance to occipital corners; rather strongly curved and clavate; first funicular joint a little longer than broad; funicular joints 2 to 7 transverse, increasing in size toward apex; terminal joint as long as the 3 preceding joints together. Eyes lacking. Mandibles stout, acuminate at tips. Thorax in profile very feebly convex, from above nearly three times as long as broad; promesonotal suture discernible though very shallow; sides and posterior border of epinotum narrowly margined, subangulate above; petiole in profile as long as postpetiole with a large and flat anteroventral spine; from above two-thirds as broad as postpetiole; postpetiole in profile considerably deeper than petiole, feebly convex above; from above one and one-half times as broad behind as in front. First segment of gaster two and one-half times as long as remaining segments together. Legs short with thick femora and tibiae.

Subopaque.

Head, thorax, petiole and postpetiole coarsely, somewhat rugosely punctate; first segment of gaster with large shallow punctures largest and most dense anteriorly; the surface between sublucid; legs rather strongly punctate.

Head, body and appendages with abundant recumbent white silky hairs and a few longer and coarser sub-erect hairs.

Color light yellowish brown.

Type: Cat. No. 43648 U. S. N. M.

Type locality: Porto Rico Insular Experiment Station, Rio Piedras, P. R.

¹ Received August 15, 1931.

This species is described from a series collected by Francisco Sein in soil about the roots of sugar cane.

Although the type locality of this species is Porto Rico and it is the first record of an ant of this subgenus in the New World, I believe it very probable that it is endemic to New Guinea and has been introduced into Porto Rico in soil with sugar cane. The other species of *Syscia* occur in Australia, Malaya and Ceylon, with the exception of *silvestrii* Wheeler, which was described from Hawaii. I think it possible that the latter species also will later be found endemic to New Guinea.

C. seini is one of the smallest of the species; the promesonotal suture is more distinct than in the other known forms and the punctation of the gaster finer and shallower with the area between smooth instead of rugulose. *C. silvestrii* is larger and has the head larger in proportion to its width and the antennal scapes longer, stouter and less curved.

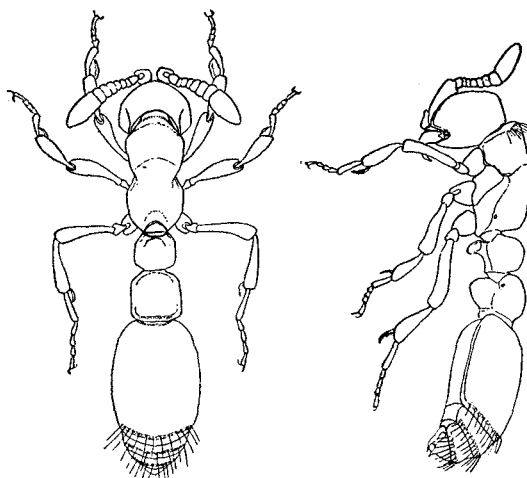


Fig. 1. *Cerapachys (Syscia) seini*, n. sp., worker. Drawn by ELEANOR A. CARLIN.