

of forest floor cover usually yield a large quantity of specimens of this genus.

The classification of this group is still primitive. Due to the monotonous morphology of most of the species, their characterization and identification is rather difficult. The extent of their intraspecific variability is scarcely understood.

In the following I give a redescription of *P. opaciceps* Mayr and *trigona* Mayr, based upon a direct examination of the types. A new species of the *foreli*-group, *P. vernacula* n. sp., is also described, with a brief diagnosis of the two related forms, *foreli* Mayr and *idelettae* Santschi.

***Ponera opaciceps* Mayr**

(Figs. 8, 9)

Ponera opaciceps Mayr, 1887, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien 37: 536 (Worker, female; Brazil: Santa Catarina). — Gallardo, 1918, An. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. B. Aires 30: 77-79, figs. 17, 18 (Worker, female; Argentina: Buenos Aires, Tucumán). — M. R. Smith, 1929, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 22: 545-546 (Male, USA: Mississippi). — Smith & Haug, 1931, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 24: 507-508, pl. 1 (Worker, ergatoid male; USA: Mississippi). — M. R. Smith, 1936, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 29: 428-430 (Worker, female, ergatoid male; Distribution in USA).

The Natural History Museum of Vienna, Austria, has sent me on loan 4 type specimens, 2 workers and 2 females, of the present species. Thus I am enabled to determine the lectotype and to give a further characterization of *opaciceps*. Fortunately, this species seems to have been correctly interpreted by most authors that dealt with it in the past. The original description by Mayr and the diagnoses elaborated by R. M. Smith are reasonably accurate and complete. In the following I give figures of the worker based on the lectotype, exact measurements and a few additional characters.

Worker (lectotype). — Total length 3.5 mm; head length 0.80 mm; head width 0.69 (0.67) mm; scape length 0.67 (0.64) mm; thorax length 1.09 mm; pronotum width 0.48 mm; petiole length 0.24 mm; petiole width 0.37 (0.35) mm; postpetiole (tergite I of gaster!) length 0.48 mm; postpetiole width 0.59 (0.56) mm; hind femur length 0.67 mm.

Mandibles with 3 distinct apical teeth, followed basad by numerous (over 8) small to indistinct denticles. Anterior face of clypeus vertical, subtruncate, truncation above obtusely marginate. Outer borders of frontal lobes conspicuously ciliate. Eyes with approximately 12 facets. Scape in repose attains the occipital border. Funicular segments I and XI distinctly longer than broad, III-VI conspicuously transverse, II, VII-X almost as long as