

*P. trigona* actually possesses two described varieties, *cauta* Forel, 1912, and *opacior* Forel, 1893. At least the latter seems specifically distinct from *trigona* if the current idea about its nature is correct. The solution of the problem depends from an examination of the types, which were not accessible during the present study.

#### Group of *Ponera foreli*

The following three medium-sized species, *foreli* Mayr, *idelettae* Santschi, and *vernacula*, n. sp. constitute a distinctive group of rather easily recognizable species. They are characterized in the worker caste by the relatively slender habitus, the hump-backed thorax and the subcircular mesonotum. Moreover, *foreli* and *idelettae* lack a pronounced constriction of the gaster.

#### *Ponera foreli* Mayr

(Figs. 12, 17)

*Ponera foreli* Mayr, 1887, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien 37: 534-536 (Worker, female; Brazil: Santa Catarina State). — Luederwaldt, 1296, Rev. Mus. Paulista 14: 235 (Brazil, Minas Gerais: Cristina; Bion.).

Mayr's descriptions are reasonably complete. The general habitus of the worker is shown in Figs. 12, 17. This caste is readily identified by the following features:

Body rather slender. Scape surpassing the occipital border by a distance equalling twice its maximum diameter when laid back over the head as much as possible. Funicular segment II elongate. Eyes medium-sized, with about 5 facets across the maximum diameter. Thorax hump-backed, promesonotum convex in both directions. Mesonotum subcircular. Epinotum strongly compressed transversely, gable-shaped; basal face reduced to a narrow longitudinal ridge, slightly elevated behind, forming nearly an angle with the declivous face. Petiolar scale strongly compressed antero-posteriorly, in side view strongly attenuate toward apex. Gastric constriction very feeble. Pilosity and pubescence well developed. Cheeks with oblique hairs.

The color and sculpture is quite variable. Specimens from Blumenau are brown and rather feebly sculptured, as stated for the type in the original description. Most of the remaining specimens are fuscous-brown to black, with variable but always better developed sculpture.

I have seen specimens from the following Brazilian localities:

Santa Catarina State: Blumenau (DZSP, CTB); Itajubá, Nova Teutônia, Seara, Xaxim, (F. Plaumann) (WWK); Paraná State: Rondon (F. Plaumann) (WWK); São Paulo State: Agudos (C. Gilbert, O.F.M., W. W. Kempf, O.F.M.) (WWK),