

mesially interrupted transverse keel; behind the keel, the lateral border is excised and converges toward the posterior rectangular corner. Promesonotal suture vestigial. Mesonotum flat, strikingly transverse, bearing on each side a small projecting tooth. Mesoepinotal suture vestigial. Epinotum broad, with a shorter anterior triangular spine and a posterior more projecting and more pointed spine, the posterior border of which runs transversely mesad toward the petiolar insertion; declivous face consisting in a deeply impressed, transversely elliptical mesial groove. Sides of thorax without costae and striae. Epinotal stigma lying below lateral expansion between anterior and posterior spine. Femora incrassate, II and III dorsally subangulate in the middle. Tibiae prismatic, tarsite I of all legs strongly compressed, broadened and subfoliaceous.

Petiole deeper than long, with an oblique anterior face, more or less distinct from the narrow dorsal face, bearing on each side a thick and prominent spine, pointing obliquely caudad. Postpetiole dorsally gently convex in both directions, its lateral appendages pointing laterad and slightly forward, their apex obliquely truncate. Gaster oblong cordiform, with a broad anterolateral lamellate border, which continues caudad behind the dorsal stigma as a sharp carina which almost attains the posterior border.

The paratype soldier is smaller in size, its measurements have already been given above in parentheses; the denticles and the transverse carina on vertex is practically absent, the transverse pronotal carina is weaker; for the rest identical with the lectotype.

Discussion. — This is a rather aberrant species, still known only from the two type specimens just described. The transverse carinae on vertex and pronotum show clearly that the specimens are soldiers and not workers, as Forel pretended. On the other hand, they are not fully grown and represent a somewhat intermediate stage between the soldier and worker caste. Its systematic position, already uncertain on other accounts, is therefore even more difficultly ascertained.

It is fairly certain that *duckeii* belongs to the first evolutionary level of genus *Paracryptocerus*, in which the soldier caste has not as yet acquired a fully delimited, more or less oval or circular saucer-shaped cephalic disc, being solely an overgrown worker. Upon this level, it bears no preference for any of the three recognized species-groups. It differs from the *spinusus*-group rather significantly in the shape of the lateral pronotal projections and the compressed and broadened tarsites, aside from other character differences which could be attributed to the fact that these soldiers are not fully developed. The distinction from the *complanatus*-group consists principally in the presence of marked humeral corners, the shape of the lateral pronotal projections and the declivous face of the epinotum. Finally, the more orthodox members of the *pavonii*-