

WORKER

Dimensions: TL 7.58-9.73; HL 2.12-2.50; HW 1.65-2.01; CI 78-82; SL 2.56-2.97; SI 145-158; PW 1.18-1.51; MTL 2.59-3.07 (30 measured).

Mandibles with 5 teeth. Clypeus in profile almost straight; the anterior margin entire. Sides of head in front of eyes shallowly concave, slightly converging anteriorly; widely rounded behind. Eyes convex, in full face view usually only marginally breaking the outline of the head. Frontal carinae sharply raised. Pronotal dorsum with a pair of long, divergent, somewhat flattened spines; their dorsolateral borders continuous with the pronotal margins. Mesonotal dorsum transversely convex, wider than pronotum at the base, the lateral margins converging strongly posteriorly. Propodeal dorsum almost flat, with margins converging into weakly upturned posterior angles. Petiole with two posterodorsally directed spines and, between them, a more or less distinct, small intercalary tooth. A somewhat flattened, deeply emarginated tooth, is situated laterally below the level of the base of each spine. First gastral tergite shallowly concave basally.

Mandibles finely, regularly striate, with numerous piliferous pits. Head and lateral branches of mesosoma finely reticulate; dorsum of mesosoma, petiole and the gaster shagreened.

A few long, erect, somewhat undulated hairs scattered on dorsum of the head and mesosoma. Such hairs are relatively more abundant and posteriorly directed on the gaster. Bright golden or, less frequently, silvery pubescence more or less obscuring the underlying sculpturation, and abundant all over the body, except on the mandibles and tips of the spines.

Generally black, with coxae, femora, tibia and proximal and distal ends of the antennal scapes yellow or light yellowish-brown.

FEMALE

Dimensions: TL 9.98-11.59; HL 2.50-2.74; HW 2.01-2.21; CI 79-82; SL 2.87-3.12; SI 136-143; PW 2.03-2.22; MTL 3.06-3.22 (7 measured).

Female almost identical to worker apart from its larger size and the characters identifying full sexuality. The pronotal spines are shorter and downturned, and the dorsum of petiole armed with 3 distinct teeth (Fig. 1a).

Males and immature stages are present in the ANIC and RJK spirit collections.

REMARKS

Colonies of *P. andromache* usually nest in tree or other plant cavities (as in hollow internodes of

a standing dead bamboo *Bambusa forbesii* at Iron Range), but occasionally build pocket-like nests of silk and debris against tree trunks (Kohout, 1988b). The known distribution is from Moluccas to New Guinea and northern Australia, where the species has been recorded from Torres Strait Islands and Cape York Peninsula as far south as Iron Range (Grid cells 6/145, 8/141, 9/142, 10/142, 10/143, 12/143).

***Polyrhachis foreli* sp. nov.**
(Figs 2,2a,7,11)

Polyrhachis (Myrma) relucens r. *andromache* var. *andromeda* Forel, 1915:110. Syntype workers. AUSTRALIA: Queensland, Bellenden Ker (E.Mjöberg) NHRM, GMNH, ANIC (Examined). (An inadmissible infrasubspecific name).

MATERIAL EXAMINED

HOLOTYPE: AUSTRALIA: Queensland, NE. Tully, nr Clump Point, 17.52 S x 146.07 E (type locality), 30 April 1969, ex rotting wood piece, R.W. Taylor acc. 69.123 (worker).

PARATYPES: data as for holotype (5 nidoparatype workers, 1 nidoparatype dealate female, 3 nidoparatype alate females, 4 nidoparatype males and immature stages - larvae and pupae of 2 males and 1 female); c. 6 km W of South Mission Beach, 17.56 S x 146.02 E, 18-19 July 1980, RJK acc. 80.60 (19 paratype workers).

TYPE DEPOSITION

Holotype (Type no.7734), 3 nidoparatype workers, 2 nidoparatype females (1 dealate, 1 alate), 4 nidoparatype males and 2 paratype workers in ANIC; 2 nidoparatypes (1 worker, 1 alate female) and 2 paratype workers in QM; 2 nidoparatypes (1 worker, 1 alate female) in BMNH; 4 paratype workers in RJK; 1 paratype worker each in AM, BPBM, GMNH, MCG, MCZ, NHRM, NHMW, NMV, OUM, USNM. ZIK.

WORKER

Dimensions (holotype cited first): TL 8.62, 8.16-9.37; HL 2.28, 2.21-2.46; HW 1.87, 1.75-1.96; CI 82, 78-82; SL 2.71, 2.59-2.90; SI 145, 145-153; PW 1.59, 1.50-1.75; MTL 2.84, 2.71-3.06 (25 measured).

FIGS 1-4. Dorsal view of mesosoma and anterior view of petiole (pilosity omitted): 1, *P. andromache*; 2, *foreli*; 3, *rufofemorata*; 4, *inusitata*.

FIGS 1a-3a. Anterior view of petiole (females): 1a, *P. andromache*; 2a, *foreli*; 3a, *rufofemorata*.

FIGS 5-8. Head in full face view (right antennae omitted): 5, *P. inusitata*; 6, *andromache*; 7, *foreli*; 8, *rufofemorata*.

FIGS 9-12. Lateral view (antennae, legs and gaster omitted): 9, *P. inusitata*; 10, *andromache*; 11, *foreli*; 12, *rufofemorata*.