

having relatively short hairs abundant over most of the body, while in *continua* these hairs are distinctly longer and much diluted, with only a few breaking the outlines of the head and gaster. *P. inusitata* is markedly more slender than *P. continua*, which is a relatively robust, wider bodied species.

P. inusitata is apparently limited to the mid Cape York Peninsula, from the Claudie River basin at Iron Range to the McIlwraith Range (Grid cells 12/143, 13/143). It seems to be very rare and, in spite of intensive collecting within its distribution range, it has been taken only twice.

***Polyrhachis rufofemorata* Fr. Smith, 1859**
(Figs 3, 3a, 8, 12)

Polyrhachis rufofemoratus Fr. Smith, 1859:142. Holotype worker. INDONESIA: Aru I. (A.R. Wallace) OUM (Examined).

Polyrhachis merops Fr. Smith, 1860:98. Holotype worker. INDONESIA: Bachian I. (A.R. Wallace) OUM (Examined). Synonymy by Bolton (1974).

DIMENSIONS OF *P. RUFOFEMORATA*

Holotype: TL 8.55; HL 2.18; HW 1.61; CI 74; SL 2.59; SI 161; PW 1.09; MTL 2.90.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED

INDONESIA: West Irian, Cyclops Mts, Ifar, 300-500m, 23-25 vi 1963, J. Sedlacek. PAPUA NEW GUINEA: West Sepik Prov., Oenake Ra., 10km WNW of Vanimo, 03.40S x 141.12E, 15 Aug 1984, RJK acc. 84.288. Torricelli Mts, Lumi, 400-550m, 03.28 S x 142.02 E, 4-13 Aug 1984, RJK acc. 84.283; October 1984, D. Waisi. Pes Mission, <50m, c. 12km WSW of Aitape, 03.11S x 142.15E, 31 July- 3 August 1984, RJK acc. 84.154, 176. East Sepik Prov., Passam nr Wewak, 5 July 1972, R. W. Taylor. Morobe Prov., Busu Riv., nr Lae, 8 i 1968, B.B. Lowery; Bulolo, 12 xii 1967, B.B. Lowery; nr Wampit, c. 50m, c. 35km W of Lae, 06.45S x 146.40E, 24 & 27 Aug 1984, RJK acc. 84.347, 353, 365, 370, 373. Northern Prov., Popondetta, 14 i 1971, B.B. Lowery; Pongani R., c. 500m, Boikiki Plant., c. 8km NNE Afore, 09.06 S x 148.25 E, 29-30 Aug 1984, RJK acc. 84.386. Owen Stanley Ra., 500m, Mamba Plant., c. 7km WNW of Kokoda, 08.51S x 147.41E, 31 Aug-1 Sept 1984, RJK acc. 84.400, 403. Central Prov., Brown Riv., 22 i 1971, B.B. Lowery. AUSTRALIA: Queensland, Cape York Penins., Bamaga, 10.53S x 142.23E, 18 & 24 March 1987, RJK acc. 87.6. Iron Ra., 12.43S x 143.18E, 26-31 July 1981, RJK acc. 81.140, 191, 198, 211.

WORKER

Dimensions: TL 8.47-9.58; HL 2.27-2.53; HW 1.62-1.84; CI 71-77; SL 2.71-3.02; SI 154-170; PW 1.03-1.31; MTL 3.02-3.48 (35 measured).

Mandibles with 5 teeth. Clypeus sinuate in profile, convex above, concave below; median

carina more or less distinct; anterior margin truncated medially. Sides of head in front of eyes only feebly convex (almost straight in some specimens), slightly converging anteriorly; behind the eyes broadly convex. Eyes convex, in full face view not or only marginally breaking the outline of the head. Median ocellus weakly marked in some specimens. Frontal carinae sinuate with sharply raised lobes. Pronotum with a pair of long, divergent, somewhat flattened spines; their outer borders continuous, with posteriorly diverging lateral margins. Mesonotal dorsum wider than pronotum at the base, transversely convex, lateral margins acute but not laminate. Propodeal dorsum deeply concave between lateral margins, which form almost vertically raised lamellate flanges; posterior angles rounded, not acute. Petiole scale-like, with dorsal edge usually angulate or dentate, but also distinctly spinose, as in some New Guinean and all known Australian populations. Base of first gastral tergite very shallowly concave.

Mandibles finely longitudinally striate, with numerous piliferous pits. Anterior clypeal margin medially with a row of distinct pits from which long hairs arise. Sculpturation of the head and mesosoma consisting of fine to coarse reticulations, with dorsum of the head more or less longitudinally striate. Intensity of the sculpturation decreasing posteriorly, the petiole and gaster finely shagreened.

Short to medium long, semierect, yellow to rusty-brown hairs scattered all over the body. Short appressed pubescence of variable density everywhere, but almost absent from the petiole and the base of the first gastral tergite; colour of the pubescence yellow with distinct reddish tint on dorsum of head, mesosoma and gaster, more silvery on lateral and ventral surfaces of the body and appendages.

Body distinctly bicoloured; black, with the petiole, base of the first gastral tergite, coxae and femora, save for their apical portions, light to medium reddish-brown. Tips of the petiolar spines or denticles also black.

FEMALE

Dimensions: TL 9.42-10.43; HL 2.37-2.59; HW 1.68-1.89; CI 70-75; SL 2.77-3.02; SI 154-168; PW 1.61-1.91; MTL 3.17-3.53 (14 measured).

Female larger, with the usual characters identifying full sexuality. The sculpturation, pubescence and coloration is similar to that of the worker. Eyes convex, usually breaking the outline of the head. Configuration of the petiolar spines