

or '*micans* sp C'; and (4) *P. (sidnica)* as '*hexacantha* sp B'.

Specimens identified by Imai, Crozier and Taylor (1977) using the voucher designation '*Polyrhachis* sp no 1 (ANIC)' represent an unnamed '*Campomyrma*' species, which will be described elsewhere.

## DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIES

In the following, distributions are summarised using 'short' coordinates to specify 1-degree mapping grid-cells; all latitudes are for the southern hemisphere. Unless otherwise indicated, all specimens discussed are workers and all nomenclatural changes have been based on direct comparison of relevant type specimens.

### *Polyrhachis atropos* Fr.Smith, 1860

*Polyrhachis atropos* Fr.Smith, 1860:100, pl.1,fig.22.

Type locality: New Guinea, Dory (= Manokwari, Irian Jaya), (holotype examined, OXUM).

*Polyrhachis (Hedomyrma) eucharis* Karawajew, 1927:22, fig.12. Type locality: Aru, Wammar I., Dobo (= Kepulauan Aru, Indonesia) (syntype examined, IZAS). syn.nov.

*P. atropos* has not previously been recorded from Australia. Specimens from Maer (= Murray) Island (09/144) in Torres Strait (29.vii.1974, H. Heatwole and E. Cameron) and Bamaga (10/142) on Cape York Peninsula (18,24.iii.1987, R.J. Kohout (RJK)) are in the ANIC and QMBA. The species is known from the Moluccas through West Irian to Papua New Guinea and northern Cape York Peninsula, Queensland (Qld). Recent New Guinean records are from Oransbari, S of Manokwari (01/134), Aitape (03/142), Lumi (03/142), Umboi I. (05/147), Wampit nr Lae (06/146), Kokoda (08/147), Rouna (09/147) and Pongani R. (09/148). This species nests in small hollow twigs on standing low trees and shrubs.

### *Polyrhachis argenteosignata* Emery, 1900

*Polyrhachis argenteosignata* Emery, 1900:335. Type locality: New Guinea (syntype examined, MCSN).

This New Guinean species is recorded for the first time from Australia where it is known only from lowland rainforests on northern Cape York Peninsula, at Lockerbie Scrub (10/142), Bamaga

(10/142) and Iron Range (12/143). New Guinean records are from at or near the following localities: Oransbari, S of Manokwari (01/134); Kar Kar I., Kurum (04/145); and Wampit, nr Lae (06/146). *P. argenteosignata* inhabits lowland and gallery rainforests where it mostly frequents the edges, rather than deeper in the forest or in the surrounding savannah woodland.

### *Polyrhachis australis* Mayr, 1870

*Polyrhachis australis* Mayr, 1870:945. Type locality: Port Mackay, Ostaustralien (= Mackay, Qld) (type presumed lost).

*Polyrhachis levior* Roger, 1863; Mayr, 1876:71. (spurious synonymy of *australis* under *P. levior*).

*Polyrhachis (Cyrtomyrma) nox* Donisthorpe, 1938:249. Type locality: Mackay, Queensland (2 syntypes examined, BMNH). syn.nov.

The holotype of *P. australis* cannot be found in the Mayr collection and appears to have been lost. However, details given in the original description, and stated in support of the subsequent inappropriate (see below) synonymy of *australis* under *P. levior* Roger (= *laevisimus* Fr.Smith, 1859) (Mayr, 1876:71), enabled us to identify *P. australis* with reasonable confidence. In this species the pronotal humeri are angulate and the propodeum is armed with a pair of spines. The same characters were used by Donisthorpe to characterise his *P. nox*, the types of which were evidently collected at Mackay (Qld), as were those of *P. australis*. We are confident that these names apply to a single species and that *nox* is thus a junior synonym of *australis*. On the other hand, examination of the holotype of *P. levior* shows it clearly to be representative of another species. Its head is missing, but the mesosomal structure is very distinctive. The pronotal humeri are distinctly bilobed, and the propodeal spines relatively long and thick, somewhat dorsoventrally flattened and rather bluntly terminated. In contrast, the pronotal humeri of *P. australis* (as represented by the *P. nox* syntypes and other available material) are only bluntly angulate, and the propodeal spines distinctly shorter, more slender and more acute than in *levior*. We have not seen confidently identified Australian specimens of *P. levior*, and thus consider it no longer to be referable to the Australian fauna.

*P. australis* is known from just north of Mackay (20/148), south to Rundle Range (23/150). It is an arboreal species that builds its nests by