

faint, somewhat polished, fine puncturation, which is usually largely masked by rich, brassy, appressed pubescence. The propodeal spines in *sexspinosa* are generally vertical relative to the main axis of the body, or even inclined forwards when viewed from the side. In *reclinata* they are posteriorly inclined, more curved in side view, and somewhat more divergent in dorsal view.

P. sexspinosa is relatively common and widespread on the mainland of New Guinea (Grid cells 03/135, 03/142, 05/145, 07/146, 08/147), but *P. reclinata* is known only from the savannas of the Port Moresby area, and from the Fly River delta in the south of the island, in areas generally opposite the tip of Cape York Peninsula (Grid cells 08/143, 09/143, 09/147). In Australia both species are known only from northern Cape York Peninsula, where *sexspinosa* ranges from Lockerbie Scrub south to Rocky River, ENE of Coen (Grid cells 10/142, 12/143, 13/143), and *reclinata* has been taken only at Iron Range (12/143) (RJK accs 81.185, 209, 210), where it nests in the hollow internodes of the bamboo *Bambusa forbesii*. Bamboo-internode nesting is common to most Australian species of the *sexspinosa*-group. The exceptions are *P. sexspinosa* itself, which builds camouflaged pocket nests of silk and bark fragments attached to the trunks of rainforest trees, and *P. glabrinota*, which uses silk to build nests by joining the leaves of various rainforest trees and shrubs. There are, incidentally, 5 species of the *sexspinosa*-group present on N Cape York Peninsula (*P. reclinata*, *P. sexspinosa*, *P. glabrinota* and 2 species yet to be described).

Polyrhachis schoopae Forel, 1902 stat.nov.

Polyrhachis appendiculata r. *schoopae* Forel, 1902:520. Type locality: Qld, Mackay (21/149) (8 syntypes examined, MHNG, ANIC).

The *P. appendiculata* and *P. appendiculata schoopae* syntypes, and specimens considered conspecific with each, are consistently separable. We consider them to represent separate species. *P. appendiculata* is generally smaller than *P. schoopae*, with the relatively fine sculpturing of the promesonotal dorsum partly to largely obscured by silvery pubescence. The pronotal dorsum in profile is more strongly convex than in *schoopae*, and the mesonotal and propodeal dorsa almost straight. *P. schoopae* is relatively large, with the promesonotal dorsum mostly longitudinally striate and shining, with

appressed pubescence virtually lacking. The entire mesosomal dorsum in profile forms a single, strongly convex, almost semicircular arc.

The known range of *P. schoopae* is from Cape Tribulation, Qld, south to Mackay (Grid cells 16/145, 20/148, 20/149, 21/148, 21/149). *P. appendiculata* is known only from the Torres Strait islands (Yam I., Stephens I., Murray I.) (Grid cells 09/142, 09/143, 09/144), except for a single record from mid Cape York Peninsula (Jane Table Hill, Princess Charlotte Bay, 28 June 1980, RJK acc. 80.47) (Grid cell 14/144).

Polyrhachis semiobscura Donisthorpe, 1944

Polyrhachis (Hagiomyrma) semiobscura Donisthorpe, 1944:65. Type locality: New Ireland, Kavieng (02/150) (holotype examined, BMNH).

P. semiobscura has been previously reported only from mainland PNG, and adjacent islands. It was recently collected for the first time in Australia, on Cape York Peninsula, Qld, at Bamaga (10/142) (RJK acc. 87.76) and Iron Range (12/143) (RJK accs 81.176, 179, 203). A colony at Iron Range occupied two adjacent woody galls attached to the thin branch of a low shrub in open forest. Melanesian records are from at or near the following localities: Bubia, nr Lac (06/146); Bulolo (07/146); and nr Sogeri (09/147). This is an open forest and savannah-inhabiting species.

Polyrhachis sexspinosa (Latreille, 1802)

Formica sexspinosa Latreille, 1802:126, pl.4, fig.21.

Type locality: East Indies (type presumed lost).

Polyrhachis (Myrmhopla) barnardi Clark, 1928:39, pl.1, figs 37,38. Type locality: Qld, Cape York (10/142) (syntypes examined, MVMA, ANIC, MCZC). syn.nov.

Five nominal specimens (all labelled 'Type', one on a red tag, the others on blue tags) of *P. barnardi* have been examined, and the series is considered to include 2 distinct species. Three specimens match Clark's original description and illustrations, and these we take authentically to represent *P. barnardi*. A lectotype (the specimen bearing a red tag, MVMA) has been selected, and the other 2 specimens (MVMA) are designated paralectotypes. Further comparison of these specimens with others identified as *P. sexspinosa* by Bolton (1975), shows *sexspinosa* and *barnardi* (as restricted here) to be con-