

specific. The 2 remaining original *barnardi* syntypes (ANIC, MCZC, the last examined by Bolton, 1975) are to be included in the type series of a new species for description by RJK. *P. sexspinosa* was originally described from a queen collected in the 'East Indies'. Like Bolton (1975) we have been unable to locate the type. In lieu we recognise a specimen in the ANIC from a long series collected at Pes Mission nr Aitape (03/142), West Sepik Province, PNG (RJK acc. 84.207) as the nomenclatural paradigm of *P. sexspinosa*. Designation of a neotype would not be appropriate here. Other details are given above under *P. reclinata*.

***Polyrhachis vermiculosa* Mayr, 1876 stat.nov.**

*Polyrhachis guerini* var. *vermiculosa* Mayr, 1876:74. Original localities: Qld, Rockhampton (23/150) and Peak Downs (22/148); NSW, Sydney (as Sidney) (33/151), (3 syntype workers, 1 alate queen examined, NHMW, MHNG).

*Polyrhachis aurea* var. *vermiculosa* Mayr; Emery, 1897:584.

The compared syntypes of *P. guerini vermiculosa* and *P. aurea* (specimen details given under *P. pallescens*) are similar but, following examination of other relevant specimens, we consider them to represent separate species. *P. aurea* has the mesosoma strongly narrowed posteriorly, with the dorsum of the propodeum distinctly indented across the bases of the propodeal spines; the sculpturing of its pronotal dorsum consists of fine, more or less generally longitudinal, fragmented rugulation. *P. vermiculosa* is more stoutly built, with the propodeal dorsum at the base of the spines relatively wide, and the pronotal dorsum irregularly and rather vermiculose. The antennal scapes are relatively long in *aurea*, with Scape Index (see above under *P. obtusa*) >125, versus <115 in *vermiculosa*.

We have seen *P. vermiculosa* specimens from many localities, ranging from Lakefield on Cape York Peninsula, Qld, to just south of Brisbane (Grid cells 14/144, 20/148, 21/148, 22/149, 23/150, 26/153, 27/152, 27/153, 28/152). This species inhabits open forest and woodland, and nests mostly in the soil between grass roots, or under suitable covering objects, such as stones or logs.

***Polyrhachis yarrabahensis* Forel, 1915 stat.nov.**

*Polyrhachis (Myrmatopa) lombokensis* var. *yarrabahensis* Forel, 1915:115. Type locality: Qld, Malanda (17/145) (for the queen), Yarrabah (16/145) (for the worker) (syntype workers examined, ANIC).

Worker syntypes of *P. lombokensis yarrabahensis* have been compared to a syntype of *P. lombokensis* (Emery, 1898: 239; worker (MCSN); Indonesia, Lombok). With some hesitation we consider them to represent separate species. We are hesitant to synonymize the names because of the great distance separating the known ranges of these taxa and because no material is known from areas in between. One syntype was unfortunately the only specimen of *P. lombokensis* available to us, and we have been unable to match it with any of the numerous Indonesian and Melanesian '*Myrmatopa*' specimens we have seen. The characters differentiating these taxa are relatively slight, but consistent in the material available.

The eyes of *P. yarrabahensis* are rather strongly convex, extending prominently beyond the outline of the head in frontal view. In *P. lombokensis* the eyes are less strongly convex, and exceed the outline of the head less strongly. The humeral margins of the pronotal dorsum in *yarrabahensis* are slightly angled in dorsal view, and the propodeal declivity descends from the dorsum as a relatively gentle slope (the accurately goniometer-measured angle between the basal and declivitous propodeal faces in side view ranges from 37 to 45° in 10 *yarrabahensis* specimens examined). The humeri in *lombokensis* are broadly and smoothly rounded in dorsal view, and the propodeal declivity descends more abruptly in the available syntype, at an angle of 50°.

*P. yarrabahensis* is an arboreal species which uses silk to build complex, often polydomous nests by joining together the leaves of various lowland rainforest trees, shrubs and vines. Known records (NQ) are from Massy Spur Creek, near Silver Plains (13/143) and from Kamerunga and Yarrabah, in the Cairns area (16/145). We would expect that this species is limited to altitudes below about 350 m in the coastal strip of the Base-of-Peninsula area (as are many ant species of Papuan affinity, including the prominent green weaver ant *Oecophylla*