

specimens from Mt. Baduri, Japen Is. and one from Mimika R. have the same coloration as the type. Recently, I have also studied one more cotype and an additional specimen from Bisianumu. Their color pattern matches that of the type of *kirkae*. Still it is obvious that the color pattern varies in *kirkae*. Another difference I found between the types of these two species is the anterior border of the clypeus. However, this also shows variation even in *kirkae* itself (Fig. 1).

In addition to the above characters, I have also used the following ten measurements and indices for comparison: head width (HW), head length (HL), cephalic index ($CI = HW \times 100 / HL$), scape length (SL), scape index ($SI = SL \times 100 / HW$), pronotal width (PW), Weber's length of mesosoma (WL), metathoracic tibial length (MTL), pronotal spine length (PnSL), and propodeal spine length (PpSL). As shown in Table 1, the measurements and indices of *nigriceps* fall well within the range of *kirkae* with the exception of the propodeal spines which are shorter in *nigriceps*.

On the evidence given above, I therefore propose that *Polyrhachis kirkae* Donisthorpe 1937 be relegated to the synonymy of *Polyrhachis nigriceps* Fr. Smith 1863. It is interesting to note that *nigriceps* was first placed to the subgenus *Myrmhopla* by Donisthorpe (1932), yet

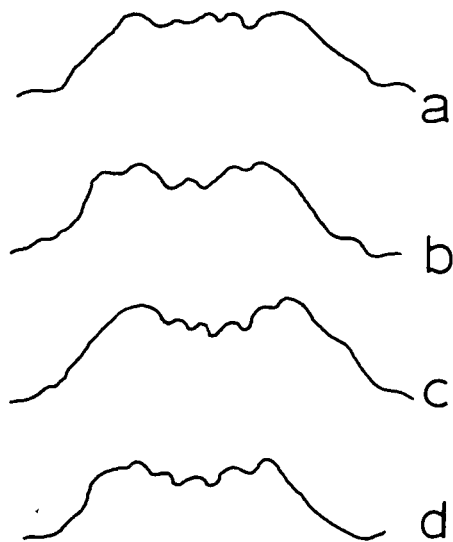


FIGURE 1. Anterior border of the clypeus in (a) *nigriceps* type, (b) *kirkae* type, (c) *kirkae* cotype, and (d) *kirkae* type series. All drawn to same scale.