

mal notch along lateral margin; setal pattern on extensor surface similar to worker pattern. Maxillary palpus 4-segmented (Fig. 15). Stipes with diagonal transverse stipital groove; lateral shoulder broadly and smoothly rounded (Fig. 15). Galea and lacinia as in worker except galeal comb with fewer setae and lacinial comb irregular (Fig. 14). Labial palpus 2-segmented (Fig. 16); subglossal brushes well developed, paraglossae absent.

Alitrunk coarsely reticulate-punctate; fine punctulae superimposed over coarse punctures. Alitrunk glossy. Declivity of propodeum gently concave. Anterior face of petiolar node flat but broadly rounded in transition to dorsal surface.

Anterior tergites of gaster with punctures reduced to shallow depressions but still with superimposed fine punctulae of head and alitrunk, tergal sculpturing progressively reduced caudally. Sculpturing of sternites similar to but less pronounced than on tergites. Gaster semiopaque.

Head moderately pubescent with numerous conspicuous suberect and subdecumbent setae. Alitrunk with numerous erect and suberect setae, the longest

inserted on the dorsum. Petiolar node and gaster moderately pubescent, with suberect setae most numerous near the posterior margin of each sternite and tergite; number of setae per gastral sclerite increasing caudally.

Tarsal claws simple. Tibial spurs 1, 1, 2.

Wing venation (Fig. 19) as in female.

Genitalia as in Fig. 21-26.

The type-nest and 4 additional samples, upon which the descriptions are based, came from the Lamto Field Station of the University of Abidjan in south-central Ivory Coast. Lamto is off the main highway, ca. 50 km south of Toumodi at 6°13'N, 5°41'W. The holotype worker, from the type-nest AA 104 collected Aug. 16, 1965, and some paratypes are deposited in the Musée Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. Other paratypes are deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University and in the British Museum (Natural History).

Taxonomic Discussion.—*A. pluto* represents the 3rd species of *Amblyopone* to be described from Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The other 2 species are *A. santschii*, described by Menozzi (1922) from Dakar, Senegal, and *A. mutica*, described by Santschi (1914) from Ibadan, Nigeria. Menozzi described the workers of *santschii* as reddish-brown and measuring 4 mm long, or much smaller than *pluto*, and he said that the head of *santschii* was "molto più lungo che largo, subparallelo, appena un poco più allargato anteriormente che alla base." In *A. pluto*, the head is only slightly longer than wide, and is not at all broadened anteriorly. The mandibles of *A. santschii* are "strette . . . leggermente striato," while in the new species, the mandibles are shorter and broader than is usual in the genus, and their dorsal surfaces are smooth and shiny, with scattered punctures. Evidently also, the mandibular and clypeal dentition of *A. santschii* are more "as usual" for the genus. *A. mutica* (3.5 mm long or smaller), on the other hand, is easily separated from both *santschii* and *pluto*: its clypeus is devoid of teeth or tubercles, and its petiole is narrowed anteriorly to form a short peduncle. On the basis of these latter characteristics, Santschi erected the subgenus *Xymmer* (to include *mutica*), which was subsequently synonymized with *Stigmatomma* Roger by Brown (1949).

The worker and queen of *A. pluto* exhibit most of the definitive *Amblyopone* characteristics. The petiole is broadly attached to the postpetiole (abdominal segment III), the eyes are situated behind the middle of the head, the mandibles bear more than 3 teeth, the frontal carinae form expansive lobes, the antennae are 12-segmented, the promesonotal suture is distinct and complete, the sting is functional and conspicuous, and the clypeus bears a row of tubercles. *A. pluto* departs slightly from the *Amblyopone* pattern in its lack of genal teeth and in the shape of the mandibles, which are not as "linear" as in many *Amblyopone* species.

The clypeal tubercles of *A. pluto* are particularly

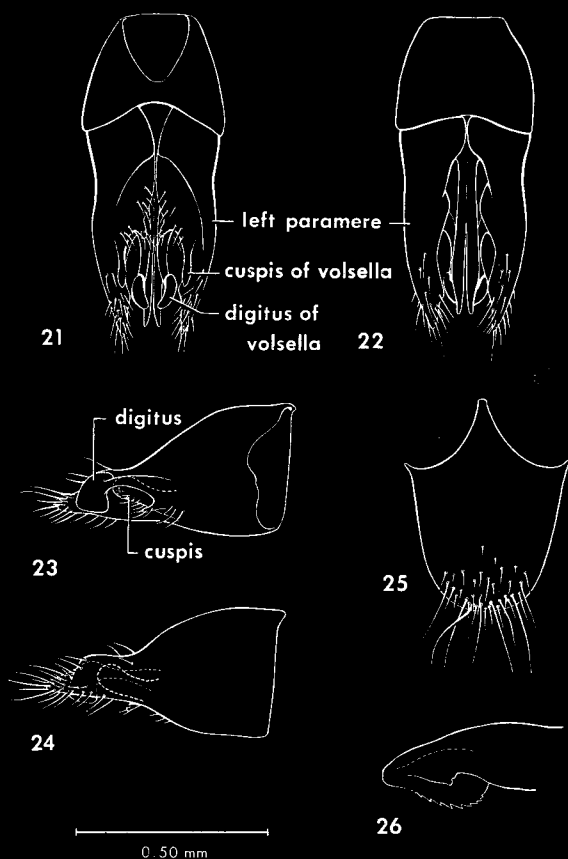


FIG. 21-26.—*A. pluto*, male genitalia. 21, Genital capsule, ventral view. 22, Genital capsule, dorsal view. 23, Left paramere and volsella, mesal aspect. 24, Right paramere and volsella, lateral aspect. 25, Subgenital plate (9th sternite), ventral view. 26, Aedeagal valve, lateral view.