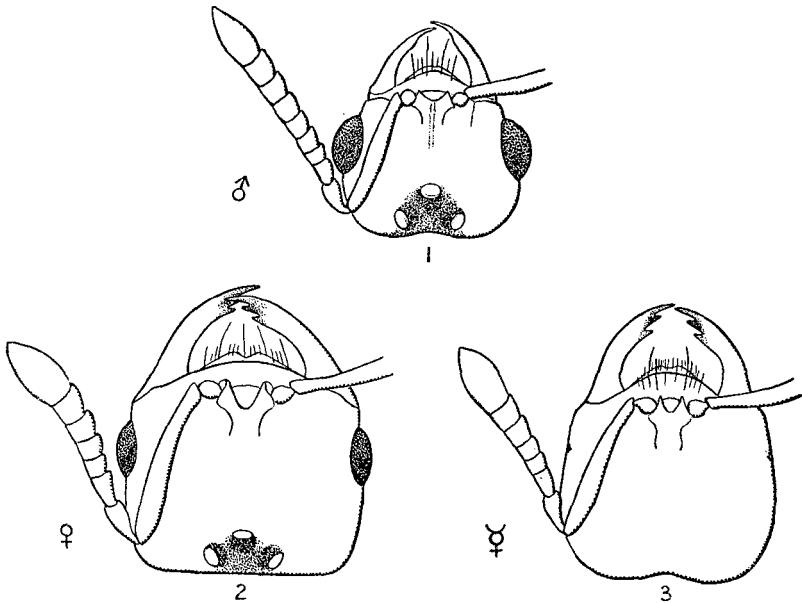


The genus *Acropyga* Roger is divided into four subgenera : (1) *Acropyga* s. str., (2) *Atopodon* Forel, (3) *Malacomyrma* Emery and (4) *Rhizomyrma* Forel. The first two of these occur in the Indo-Malay and Papua-Australia regions ; the third, of which there is only one species known, has only been found in Eritrea ; and *Rhizomyrma*, besides having a similar distribution to the first two, is also found in Central and South America.

All the species of the genus are very hypogaeic in their habits, living at the roots of plants, and keeping root-Coccids, which they help to disseminate.



Head of *Acropyga robae* :—Fig. 1, male ; Fig. 2, female ; Fig. 3, worker.

Some of the species have been proved to be injurious to cultivated plants on account of these habits. Dr. N. Annandale in India (as quoted by Prof. Silvestri in 1924) and Dr. G. H. Bünzli in Surinam (in a letter to Prof. Wheeler in 1932) have described how the female ants, when they leave the nests for the marriage flight, carry with them in their jaws a young female root-Coccid which they place on the roots of the plants where they found a new colony. Bünzli published, in 1935, a voluminous paper dealing with his observations and experiments in the coffee plantations at Surinam. There he studied two species of *Rhizomyrma*, and he shows that they cause considerable injury to the