

The specimen has lost one mandible, the head is cracked, the clypeus broken, and I can find no trace of either maxillary or labial palpi.

Smith stated that he was unable to trace the labial palpi, but described the maxillary palpi as 6-jointed (a condition very seldom found in the PONERINAE) and made no mention of the loss of one mandible, nor that the head was cracked both above and below. One wonders if the injuries were caused when he was investigating the palpi, or at some subsequent date. When the specimen was cleaned with spirit the crack became much more obvious.

Smith placed his genus in the PONERINAE and stated: "It will be seen that *Mesoxena* partakes of the characters of two very distinct families, the PONERIDAE and the CRYPTOCERIDAE; of the former in the character, or form of head, thorax and peduncular node; and of the latter, in the enlargement of the basal segment of the abdomen." Smith included the Formicine genus *Echinopla* in his CRYPTOCERIDAE. As will be seen, however, by the formation of the cloacal orifice, *Mesoxena* belongs to the FORMICINAE.

Mayr placed it in his subfamily FORMICINAE, but Dalla Torre returned it to the PONERINAE, placing it between *Ectatomma* and *Platythyrea*.

Emery considered it to be a "Camponotine" and very closely allied to the genus *Echinopla* Smith. In the *Genera Insectorum* he placed it in the FORMICINAE after *Echinopla*.

This interesting ant certainly comes near to some species of *Echinopla* in its prominent eyes, and sutureless thorax with rounded shoulders, but there the resemblance ceases, and I should not consider it very closely allied to that genus, though it certainly belongs to the tribe Camponotini.

I must thank Professor Hale Carpenter for lending me Smith's type to study.

BOOK NOTICE.

D. P. MURRAY, *South African Butterflies. A Monograph of the family Lycaenidae.* pp. viii + 195, 18 pls. (col.). 8vo. London, 1935 [i.e. 1936]. John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., 25s. 0d.

This book has on its dust wrapper the title "South African Butterflies" and a figure of *Amauris dominicanus* Trim.; it is, however, devoted entirely to the LYCAENIDAE of South Africa.

A large part of the book is devoted to the early stages, and many illustrations from originals in black and white and colour are given.

It should be noted that, although the title page is dated "1935," the publishers give as the date of publication "January 14, 1936."

Care must be exercised when the time comes to rebind the book, since many of the illustrations are printed right up to the edge of the plates.

The book gives the first details to be published of the life-history of many South African Lycaenids, but it is unfortunate that the author does not appear to follow the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature in all particulars.