

Described from a single worker taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman in Dutch New Guinea, Waigeu Island, Camp Nok, 2500 ft., April, 1938.

Smith founded the genus *Echinopla* (1857, *Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond. Zool.*, 2 : 79) for the reception of his species *E. melanarctos* from Singapore.

The distribution of the species of this genus extends from the Nicobar Islands and Malasia to New Guinea and Queensland.

The characters of the genus are as follows :

♀. *Body* massive, with more or less parallel sides. *Head* short, truncate posteriorly ; *eyes* placed before the middle of the sides, globose in some species. *Clypeus* very short, anterior border not projecting ; *frontal area* distinct or wanting. *Frontal carinae* short and very wide apart. *Mandibles* with a short masticatory border, toothed ; *maxillary palpi* 5-jointed ; *labial palpi* 4-jointed. *Thorax* broad, high ; *shoulders* rounded or dentate ; upper surface obtusely margined or rounded ; *sutures* on dorsal surface sometimes wanting ; usually the *meso-epinotal suture* is very distinct and often impressed. Sometimes the *pro-mesonotal suture* is present and terminates in a notch on the lateral borders of the upper surface. *Epinotum* arched, unarmed, and without a declivity. *Petiole* short, armed at each side with a long spine, or two or three short ones. *Basal segment* covering at least two-thirds of the gaster.

♀. Head and petiole as in the ♀, except that *ocelli* are present.

♂. Unknown.

There are 19 described species, 1 subspecies, and 3 varieties of *Echinopla* including this new species ; only five females are known and no males. It is very curious, but in all the literature I have searched I have been unable to find any reference concerning the habits or life-history of these very distinct looking ants. They are all of moderate size, none being very small. It is evident that no nests have been found and all the captures just casual ones.

Entomological Department,  
British Museum (Nat. Hist.);  
December 20, 1940.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

THE HABITS AND FOOD-PLANT OF APAMEA UNANIMIS TR.—In the last number of the *Entomologist* (74 : 21-22), Dr. de Worms gives a few notes concerning the present species not in complete harmony with my observations, which extend over a period of many years, and cover a stretch of country lying between Co. Durham and Strathpeffer, Ross-shire. He speaks of finding larvae of the species in great profusion feeding on the short stems of *Phragmites*. In spite of the fact that I have obtained, and can still obtain at the proper season, thousands of larvae of this species, never at any time, or at any place, have I seen it on *Phragmites* ; in my experience it is com-