

ANTS FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND.

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The collection of ants made by Mr. C. Barrett, C.M.Z.S., in North Queensland, contains fourteen species, one of which is new and is described below. A fine series from the collection, including the type of the new species, has been donated to the National Museum, and forms a welcome addition.

Sub-family PONERINAE.

RHYTIDOPONERA CONVEXA, Mayr, Jour. Mus. Godeffroy,
12, p. 92, 1876.

Two examples of this species were found at Cairns.
LEPTOGENYS (LOPELTA) DIMINUTA, Sm. var. YARRA-
BAHNA, Forel, Arkiv. f. Zool. 9, 16, p. 29, 1995.

A small colony was found nesting in an epiphyte
(fern) near the Daintree River.
ODONTOMACHUS TURNERI, Forel, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 44.
p. 56, 1900.

Several examples from near Cairns.
ODONTOMACHUS AJAX, Forel, Rev. Suisse Zool. 18, p. 10,
1910.

Several examples were found at Port Douglas.

Sub-family MYRMICINAE.

PHEIDOLE MEGACEPHALA, Fab., Syst. Ent. 2, p. 361, 1793.

Two colonies were found in pseudobulbs of *Myrmecodia becarri*, growing on the Mangroves near Cairns. They had probably destroyed the original inhabitants. This is an introduced pest, which is now widely distributed in Australia. This ant has caused great havoc in various parts of the world.

Sub-family DOLICHODERINAE.

IRIDOMYRMEX CORDATUS, Smith, Jour. Linn. Soc. Zool. 3.
p. 137, 1859.

Several examples were taken from *Myrmecodia becarri*, near Cairns. The specimens examined are not quite typical, but appear to be nearer to *cordatus* than to the variety *stewarti*, Forel. This ant was figured by

Mr. Barrett in the last issue of the *Vic. Naturalist*, as *I. myrmecodia*, var. *stewarti*, Forel.

Sub-family FORMICINAE.

OPISTHOPSIS RESPICIENS, Smith, Jour. Linn. Soc. Zool. 8, p. 68, 1864.

A single example taken at Cairns.

OPISTHOPSIS HADDONI, Emery, Rev. Suisse Zool. 1, p. 226, 1893.

Several examples from Kuranda.

CALOMYRMEX ALBOPILOSA, Mayr, Jour. Mus. Godeffroy, 12, p. 61, 1876.

Several examples from Port Douglas and the Daintree River.

CAMPONOTUS (TANAEMYRMEX) DORYCUS, Sm. s. sp.

CONFUSA, Emery, Ann. Mus. Nat. Genova, 24, p. 215, 1887.

Several minor workers and soldiers were taken at Port Douglas.

PARATRECHINA (NYLANDERIA) OBSCURA, Mayr, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, 12, p. 698, 1862.

Five specimens from Cairns.

POLYRHACHIS (CHARIOMYRMA) AUREA, Mayr, Jour. Mus. Godeffroy, 12, p. 73, 1876.

Many examples from Cairns and Port Douglas.

POLYRHACHIS (HEDOMYRMA) DAMELI, Mayr, var. ARGENTOSA, Forel, Rev. Suisse Zool. 10, p. 515, 1902.

Six examples from Cairns appear to belong to this variety, but are larger than those described by Forel; they agree otherwise with the description.

POLYRHACHIS (HEDOMYRMA) BARRETTI, n.sp.

(Fig. 1.)

Worker.—Length, 6.5-7mm.

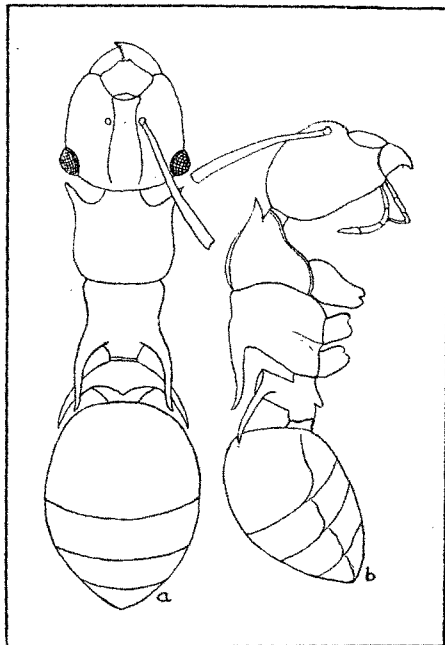
Black; antennae and tarsi brownish black.

Hairs yellowish, sparse and scattered, a little longer on the clypeus and gaster than elsewhere. Pubescence on the antennae and legs very fine and adpressed; none on the head, thorax and node. The gaster is clothed with a fine short yellowish pubescence, which does not quite hide the sculpture.

Shining. The thorax highly polished, mandibles very finely and densely striate-punctate. Head longitudinally and finely striate. Pronotum strongly and regularly striate longitudinally. The mesonotum and epinotum longitudinally striate, much finer than on the pronotum, the striate descending into the epinotal declivity. Spines of the epinotum finely punctate. Node smooth. Gaster finely and densely reticulate-punctate.

Head longer than broad, much broader behind than in front, the occipital border and the sides convex. The large, globular eyes are placed almost at the occipital angles. Mandibles broad, armed with five large, sharp teeth. Clypeus subcarinate, produced and bilobed in front, there is a short blunt tooth in the

centre of the concavity; this appears as the termination of the feeble carina. The clypeus is microscopically reticulate, and has, near the base of each frontal carina, a small piligerous puncture. Frontal carinae almost parallel, swerving slightly behind, extending to the occipital border. Antennae long and slender, scapes extending beyond the occipital border by fully one half their length; first joint of the funiculus twice as long as the second, the third slightly longer than the second, the others subequal to the apical. Thorax fully one and a half times longer than broad through the pronotum. The pronotum is one-fifth broader than long, strongly margined on the sides, armed with two broad sharp spines in front; they are twice as long as broad at their base, concave above, convex below; the points directed slightly outward and downward; the anterior border is not margined. There is a strong constriction between the pronotum and the mesonotum; the latter about twice as broad as long, strongly margined on the sides. On the dorsal surface there are no traces of a suture between the mesonotum and the epinotum, but in profile there is a faint



Polyrhachis (Hedomyrma) barretti,
n.sp.

indication of such at the base of the epinotal spines. Epinotum very short, rounded into the declivity, the latter longer than the dorsal surface and mesonotum combined; armed with two long spines; they are longer than the epinotum and mesonotum together, they are abruptly bent outward at the base, then continued almost parallel to their points, which are sharply pointed; in profile the spines are almost horizontal, slightly upturned at the points. Node twice as broad as long, the anterior border straight, or feebly convex, the posterior border convex, strongly produced in the centre as a blunt stumpy tooth, the sides each armed with a long slender spine similar to those of the epinotum, they are more wide spread and enclose the gaster at the points; in profile the node is two and a half times higher than long, the anterior and posterior faces parallel, the superior face convex; there is a broad tooth on the ventral surface in front under the anterior face. Gaster oval, longer than broad. Legs long and slender.

HAB.—N. Queensland, Daintree River (C. Barrett).

This species comes near *dameli*, Mayr, but can be readily distinguished by its deep black and shining head, thorax and node, and by the much longer spines.