

## MALE OF:

## LENGTHS OF ANTENNAL SEGMENTS

	<i>Scape</i>	<i>Funic. 1</i>	<i>Funic. 2</i>	<i>Funic. 3</i>	<i>Funic. 4</i>
<i>oculata</i>	0.50	0.10	0.26	0.14	0.16
<i>ceylonica</i>	0.56	0.16	0.28	0.16	0.18
unassociated	0.48	0.12	0.24	0.12	0.16
<i>andamanensis</i>	0.54	0.11	0.30	0.16	0.16

Thus the first funicular is about half the length of the second, the second funicular is about half the length of the scape, the third funicular is about the same as the first, and the fourth funicular is the same as or slightly longer than the third.

Eyes large, in full-face view in front of the midlength of the sides. Ocelli large and set well in front of the occipital margin. Pronotum visible as a U-shaped collar in dorsal view, running from tegula to tegula. Notauli present, parapsidal grooves faint. Propodeum massive and rounded, unarmed. Posterior femora clavate, middle femora less strongly so; tibial spurs absent from middle and hind legs. Pterostigma distinct on forewing. Radial (= marginal) cell closed or narrowly open on forewing due to the fading out of the distalmost portion of *Rs* (figs 13–15). Petiolar spiracle close to articulation with alitrunk. Postpetiole a large elongate segment (figs 12, 16, 17). Gaster distinctly narrowed basally (both in dorsal and lateral view) at its junction with the postpetiole. Sides of gastral tergites 1–3 with long projecting hair tufts. Parameres of genitalia elongate and prominent.

AFFINITIES OF *PARATOPULA*

The classical but now outdated arrangements of myrmicine ant taxonomy arrived at by Emery (1921, 1922) and Wheeler (1922) both placed *Paratopula* in the tribe Myrmecini. However, as Emery (1922) pointed out, the tribe could not be defined by positive characters and was thus a convenience taxon, to which genera that did not easily fit elsewhere in their system were consigned.

More recently a consensus of opinion has arisen which indicates that some genera of the old tribe Myrmecini may indeed be closely related and may in time constitute a definable genus-group (Taylor, 1970; Bolton, 1981). Unfortunately *Myrmecina*, type-genus of the old tribe, does not belong in this group. Of the genera given in the Emery-Wheeler classification as constituting their tribe Myrmecini, and which are still considered valid (*i.e.* *Atopula* is a junior synonym of *Tetramorium*, and *Brunella* a junior synonym of *Aphaenogaster*), the genera *Podomyrma*, *Atopomyrmex*, *Terataner*, *Dilobocondyla*, and part of *Dacryon*, which appears to contain elements of two genus-level taxa, form a group. To these may be added the genera *Peronomyrmex*, *Pseudopodomyrma*, and the isolated small genus *Ireneopone*.

*Lordomyrma*, *Myrmecina*, *Pristomyrmex*, and *Acanthomyrmex* are excluded from this group. *Lordomyrma* is definitely not closely related to any of these, or to the *Podomyrma*-group, but Moffett (1986) suspects that the last three names may form a discrete genus-group, although some doubt remains.

The species which here constitute the genus *Paratopula* show some affinities with the *Podomyrma*-group but also exhibit a number of leptothoracine features. In the Indo-Australian zoogeographical region there are numerous taxa which are currently difficult or impossible to assign to either group, and form an extensive grey area between the podo-