Paratopula ceylonica (Emery)
(figs 5, 7, 9, 11, 12)

Atopomyrmex ceylonicus Emery, 1901: 114, fig. Holotype female, SRI LANKA. (MCSN) [not seen].

Leptothorax taylori Forel, 1902: 228. Syntype worker and female, INDIA: Orissa (*Taylor*), and Barrakpur (*Rothney*) (MHN) [examined]. **Syn. n.**

Paratopula ceylonica (Emery) Wheeler, 1919: 144.

WORKER.

TL 5.6–7.0, HL 1.20–1.48, HW 1.04–1.32, CI 87–89, SL 0.84–1.02, SI 77–81, PW 0.72–0.92, AL 1.64–2.00. Propodeal spines relatively short, straight to very feebly downcurved. Metapleural lobes rounded, not hooked upwards apically. Dorsal (outer) surfaces of middle and hind tibiae without projecting stout hairs but with short appressed pubescence. Hairs on first gastral tergite not abruptly truncated apically. Pronotum broader than long in dorsal view. Petiole node in profile relatively short and deep, in dorsal view short and transverse, broader than long (fig. 5). Mandible with 9–11 teeth.

FEMALE.

As worker but larger, alate when virgin. Propodeal spines much shorter than in worker and pronotum a broad collar in front of the mesoscutum. On the forewing (fig. 11) vein *Rs+M* splits into its components (*Rs* and *M*) some considerable distance distal of the intersection of cross-vein *m-cu* with *Rs+M*. In the putative females of *macta* and *oculata* the splitting of *Rs+M* into *Rs* and *M* occurs noticeably closer to the intersection of *m-cu* with *Rs+M*.

PUTATIVE MALE.

Leading edges of funicular segments 3 and 4 each with a distinct indentation (fig. 7). Head in full-face view with sides convergent behind the eyes. Propodeal spiracle close to midlength of sides. Mandible with 5–6 teeth. Petiole node in profile evenly rounded, not raised to a peak with a vertical posterior face (fig. 12). In dorsal view the petiole node not traversed by a sharp ridge. Postpetiole in dorsal view with sides evenly convex, broadest at about the midlength and longer than broad. Gaster strongly constricted basally in dorsal view, the lateral hair tufts very conspicuous. Last visible gastral tergite enlarged and roughly triangular, mostly concealing the parameres from dorsal view. As in the female, middle and hind tibiae lack projecting hairs of any description.

The worker of *ceylonica* most closely resembles that of *catocha*. Details of their separation are given under the latter name. Other worker-based species are separated by the characters noted in the key and the table of dimensions given under *ankistra*.

P. ceylonica females separate from those of *oculata, macta* and an unassociated alate female from Sarawak (BMNH) as the last three have projecting tibial hairs which are either long and fine (*oculata*) or short and stout (*macta* and Sarawak female). Also the females of *oculata* and *macta* have the venational difference noted above. The female of *longispina* is very large compared with that of *ceylonica* (HW>2.00 in *longispina*) and has long conspicuous but appressed pubescence on the middle and hind tibiae. The ventral surfaces of the femora also possess a continuous row of long projecting hairs in *longispina*. This does not occur in *ceylonica* where at most a few hairs are present close to the femoral base ventrally. A short series of unassociated females from several localities in the Philippines (MCZ) appear closely related to the female of *ceylonica* but the postpetiole is differently constructed and the