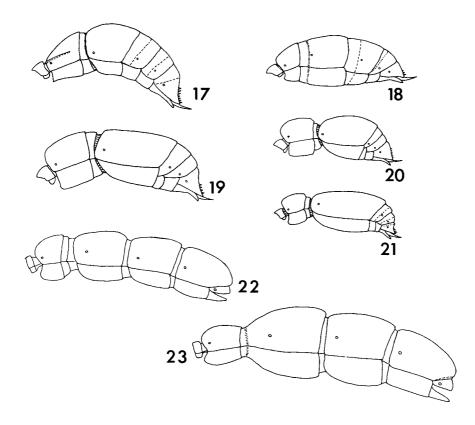
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Figs 17-23. Profile of abdominal segments 3-7 (= gaster). 17-21, Cerapachys species, workers: 17, C. dumbletoni; 18, C., undescribed species (in BMNH); 19, C., indeterminate species (in BMNH); 20, C. nitidulus; 21, C. biroi. 22-23, Leptanilloides species, workers: 22, L. biconstricta (?); 23, L. undescribed species (MCZ).

poststernite. Spiracle clearly visible, on posttergite close to helcium. Segment 3 primitively larger than 2 and smaller than 4, but in *Cerapachys* (Figs 18–21) and *Leptanilloides* (Figs 22, 23) a gradual morphoclinal reduction in the size of segment 3 is exhibited. In its advanced stages this size reduction is extreme, so that segment 3 is scarcely larger than 2 and very much smaller than 4, separating segment 3 as an isolated postpetiole (Figs 21, 23), which may also be very narrow in dorsal view. In species where reduction is marked the posttergite of 3 may develop a small but distinct posterior declivity. Poststernite anteriorly bluntly rounded or bulging forward beneath the helcium. Anterior face of this bulge often with a thickened U- or V-shaped rim separating it from the lateral faces (Figs 13, 15). The edge of this rim may project as a shallow lip-like process when viewed in profile. A morphoclinal modification of this rim can be seen: the V-shape becomes narrower and more centralized until it forms a discrete and solid medioventral process. Maximum depth of segment 3 is usually at about the midlength, but in some the maximum depth occurs at the posterior margin.

Abdominal segment 4 (Figs 1, 11, 15, 17–23). In a couple of undescribed Cerapachys (in BMNH) the presclerites are scarcely distinguished from the postsclerites in terms of width (Fig. 18). The diameter of the pretergite plus presternite is hardly less than that of