



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 morphoclineal 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 morphoclineal 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