"tricolored," as in the black phase, but with propodeal apex and both nodes more or less reddish (*M. tricolor*); "red," with head, alitrunk and nodes varying shades of deep red, the nodes and propodeal apex often lighter than the remainder, and gaster blackish (*M. nigriventris*, *M. paucidens*). The full range of variation seems only rarely to occur within one nest series, or possibly never, if some of my series really represent collections from two or more nests at the same locality, but it is certain that intranidal variation is great and that the internidal overlaps are broad and without discontinuities throughout the range of differences, considering all safely uninidal series.

In general, the darker phases tend to occur in mountainous areas, and the redder phases in lowland areas with slightly drier, more open forest, but the intergradation in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales and other areas is so broad that apportionment of geographical races seems impossible, at least without further evaluation of the situation through close field work. I personally feel that the variation, like that of *Camponotus consobrinus* (Erichson) and other ants with a similar range and color variation featuring progressive melanization, may be due to ecological (non-genetic) influences, such as temperature, humidity and insolation, rather than to genetotypic differences of such magnitude and geographical consistency as to be worth racial recognition.

Material examined, exclusive of the types of *M. simillima* and *M. crudelis* in the British Museum, is now largely in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. With the localities for these series, I have indicated the phases to which individuals from each of the localities may be arbitrarily assigned according to a choice based on the discussion above. A worker specimen now deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology: Mt. William, Grampians Range, Victoria, 8–12–51 (F. E. Wilson), has been closely compared with the *crudelis* type ("type" in B.M. chosen as lectotype) and is so similar as to be safely considered a reliable digm. The *simillima* type is also closely similar to this specimen, but has the external mandibular borders extremely slightly concave. The specimen indicated as the "type" in the British Museum under *M. simillima* should be considered as lectotype of that species.

Other material studied from: NEW SOUTH WALES: Uralla; Gosford; Parramatta; Salisbury Court (black); Hornsby (black, tricolor); Wentworth Falls; Mt. Wilson; Sutherland; Leura; Katoomba (tricolor, red) (W. M. Wheeler). Pymble (black) (J. McAreavey).