

heavy, conical spine-like setae that arise over half or more of the mid-tibial extensor surface are found only in a particular group of "*Trachymesopus*," and this group (*ochracea* and allies) shares this and several other characters with the members of *Cryptopone*. The relationship between *Trachymesopus* and *Cryptopone* has long been discussed by E. O. Wilson and myself (see Wilson, 1958: 352), and now the discovery of the concordance between the tibial armament and other characters, particularly the basal mandibular pit, makes the solution of this problem obvious. The "*Trachymesopus*" species with these characters are all really *Cryptopone*, and are transferred accordingly, as discussed under that genus below.

One of the chief *Cryptopone* characters just mentioned is a particularly interesting one; this is a prominent oval pit or fovea near the base of the mandible in its dorsolateral surface. This pit, or its obvious homolog, is also found in all *Brachyponera*, in the members of the "*Trachymesopus*" *sharpi* group, in *Hagensia*, in *Euponera sikorae* Forel (type species of *Euponera*!), and in a few other African species formerly placed in *Euponera* or other genera, but is lacking in *T. stigma*, the type species of *Trachymesopus*, and its closest relatives. All known species with the basal pit are from the Old World, and chiefly from Africa, with the exception of *Cryptopone gũlva* and (perhaps) *C. guatemalensis*, which apparently represent a *Cryptopone* invasion of the New World that has spread through North America and reached Central America. In the other direction, *Cryptopone* has reached southeastern Australia and New Caledonia, but curiously, no true *Cryptopone* are known to occur in Ethiopian Africa.

The basal mandibular pit in ponerine species was early noted as a character by Gustav Mayr and occasionally mentioned by later authors in species descriptions, but only Arnold used it as a generic character in his 1951 review of *Hagensia*, a genus in which the pits are unusually distinct. In most species that have it, the pit has been overlooked completely in descriptions, particularly after 1900. Many Ponerini, especially among the larger and presumably more primitive species, bear another character in the form of an oblique groove across the dorsal face of the mandible, curving outward from the inner base and usually continuing into the lateral longitudinal mandibular sulcus that runs to the apex. This channel, which may be functioning to