

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A RECLASSIFICATION OF THE
FORMICIDAE. IV. TRIBE TYPHLOMYRMECINI
(HYMENOPTERA)

BY WILLIAM L. BROWN, JR.

Department of Entomology, Cornell University

The Typhlomyrmecini (spelling here emended) are a tribe of Ponerinae here considered to contain the single small genus *Typhlomyrmex*. In this sense the tribe dates only from Brown, 1953. The name Typhlomyrmecini (*sic*), however, goes back to Emery, 1911, who first proposed it as a subtribe of tribe Ectatommini to contain the three genera *Prionopelta*, *Typhlomyrmex*, and *Rhopalopone*. Brown (1950) showed that *Prionopelta* belongs to tribe Amblyoponini, while *Rhopalopone* is a synonym of *Gnamptogenys* in tribe Ectatommini (Brown, 1958). After these subtractions, the genus *Typhlomyrmex* could not be placed comfortably in any existing tribe, and its present taxonomic position is an expression of this fact.

At first sight, *Typhlomyrmex* workers look like rather ordinary small cryptobiotic members of tribe Ponerini, although the frontal lobes are not as prominently developed as in Ponerini, and the petiole is never quite "right" in form. The males and larvae clearly conform to Emery's "Section Proponerinae," including Amblyoponini, Ectatommini, and Platythyreini in the modern sense; (the cerapachyines all probably belong here as well), so that the resemblance of the workers to those of certain Ponerini (in Emery's "Section Euponerinae") is either convergent or else marks a side lineage from near the base of the stock that led to the Ponerini.

Among "proponerines", *Typhlomyrmex* shows some similarities to Amblyoponini and to Ectatommini, but it can be distinguished from both by the wing venation of the sexes and the larval mandibles. The main similarity between Typhlomyrmecini and Amblyoponini, other than in "basic ponerine" traits, lies with the shape of the petiolar node of one *Typhlomyrmex* species, *T. rogenhoferi*. This node, because of its elongate form without a distinct posterior face, resembles that of an *Amblyopone* very closely in side view. In dorsal view, however, *T. rogenhoferi* proves to have a much thinner (bilaterally compressed) petiolar peduncle, and this makes it seem possible that its amblyoponine features could have been convergently acquired. Whether or not this is the correct interpretation, it is true that, aside from basic "proponerine" characters, the *Typhlomyrmex* adult has little in common