

Larva: (After G. C. and J. Wheeler, 1952 (*rogenhoferi* = *robustus*) and 1964 (*pusillus*). Thorax moderately stout and bent ventrally; slightly constricted at first abdominal somite; remainder of abdomen stout and ovoidal. Body densely covered with moderate-sized branching (mostly trifold) hairs; head with a few bifid hairs. Mandible distinctive, composed of a strongly inflated basal 2/5 and a very narrow, acute apical 3/5, the latter with 2 small median teeth in addition to the apical. This mandible is somewhat like those of amblyoponine larvae, except that the basal portion is relatively much wider than in *Amblyopone*.

Distribution and biology: So far as known, *Typhlomyrmex* is restricted to the warmer parts of the Americas, from southern Mexico to northern Argentina. Within this region, *T. rogenhoferi* is the most widespread and by far the most often-collected species, being an inhabitant of rotten logs in forest. This species is common in the Amazon Basin, where I have seen nests of several hundred workers moving in file through the rot zone just beneath the bark of a log. I have examined several such aggregations in the field, but I was not able to find definite indications of the prey of these undoubtedly predaceous ants. In some sites in the Amazon Basin, where *rogenhoferi* is moderately common, I found the species in very close proximity to termite colonies, but I never saw it actually taking or feeding upon a termite.

*T. pusillus* appears to be a soil dweller in cultivated and pampas areas as well as in forest (Kempf, 1961). It also seems to exist at higher elevations (e. g., in a coffee plantation at Venecia, near Medellin, Colombia). Probably it is strongly subterranean in foraging and nesting habits. The small series taken by P. F. Darlington at the mouth of the Amazon came from a rotten root in rain forest soil.

The remainder of the species are rare, and nothing is known of their biology. Probably their habits are strongly cryptic; the large proportion known from alate males and females indicates that most samples are taken during or after nuptial flight. *T. major* may be restricted to the south of Brazil and neighboring countries, while *T. clavicornis* is widespread in South America. *T. prolatus* is known only from the unique type, a female from Costa Rica.

#### Synonymic synopsis of *Typhlomyrmex* species

##### *Typhlomyrmex clavicornis* (Figures 4, 5, 7)

*Typhlomyrmex clavicornis* Emery, 1905, Bull. Soc. ent. Ital., 37: 112, nota, alate female. Type locality: Mapiiri, Bolivia. Holotype examined in Coll. Emery, Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genoa.

*Typhlomyrmex clavicornis* var. *divergens* Forel, 1906, Ann. Soc. ent. Belg.,