

Introduction

Parts I through V of this reclassification (Brown 1952, 1958, 1960, 1965, 1975) have covered Ponerinae tribes Amblyoponini, Platythyreini, Ectatommini, Typhlomymecini, Cerapachyini, Cylin-dromyrmecini, Acanthostichini and Aenictogitini. It was originally planned for Part VI to include Ponerini, the largest tribe of the subfamily, but as work on this part progressed, it became obvious that it would have to be split. Since the large genera *Odontomachus* and *Anochetus* together form a natural taxon within Ponerini, I decided to make this taxon the only subject of Part VI. This part grew, and after a while, considerations of time and money dictated that it in turn be divided into two parts for actual publication.

I offer here section A of Part VI to include an introduction to and general remarks on subtribe Odontomachiti, as well as coverage to the species level of genus *Odontomachus*. The format is like that of Part V, intended to include only the most essential features of a systematic revision. Part VIB, now in an advanced stage of preparation, will include a similar review of *Anochetus* and the list of references for the whole part, and should be published within a year. Regrettably, this means a separation of author-date-page indications in Part VIA from the corresponding full bibliographic references in VIB, but I think this will be only a temporary minor inconvenience to most users, who in any case can find most of these references in the well-known catalogs of Emery (1911), Chapman and Capco (1951), Wheeler (1922) and Kempf (1972).

In its aims and general plan, Part VI is much like Part V (Brown, 1975), especially in that it has been possible to carry out a fair amount of revision at the species level. It should be borne in mind, however, that it is not the main purpose of the reclassification to offer «definitive» revisions of the species in each genus.

As the problems of generic definition were examined, it incidentally proved so convenient to solve many species-level problems in certain genera that it seemed a pity to ignore them, leave them all for a later reviser, and thus waste a significant amount of time, travel and money that had to be applied to the general research in any case.

Any success the species-level revisions and keys for identification may enjoy should be counted as a bonus, even if these