

**Worker:** The genera *Odontomachus* and *Anochetus* are among the most distinctive and easily recognized of all ants. The more or less pyriform head, broadened in the anterior third, with the eyes situated at the broadest part on laterally-produced ocular prominences (figs. 2, 10), is combined with elongate, adjacent, subparallel mandibles that lie nearly parallel at full closure, but that open to about 180°, and can be held in the open position when the ant is attacking prey or is threatened by enemies. The mandibles are furnished with long trigger-hairs that are erected and point straight forward in the jaws-open position. These hairs, upon touching something within the swing range, initiate a sudden, convulsive snap of the mandibles against the sensed object, be it insect prey or the skin of a vertebrate intruder. If the object snapped at happens to be steel forceps or a similar smooth, hard instrument, the ant may be flipped backwards several centimeters by the force of the strike slipping off the unyielding surface. Such acrobatics have been observed many times in these genera, as well as in the unrelated trapjawed *Dacetini* (subfamily *Myrmicinae*). The mandibles of *Dacetini*, while superficially somewhat like those of *Odontomachus*, operate on a different plan (Brown and Wilson, 1959). Barth (1960) has shown how they work in *Odontomachus* [1].

Mandibles each with 3 (or 2) teeth in an apical group; ventral, at the apex, is the *apical* tooth; more or less fused to its dorsal side, when present, a smaller *intercalary* tooth; above this, usually a bit proximad on the shaft, is the large, but often worn or broken *subapical* tooth. The mandibular shaft may bear a series of *preapical teeth* or *denticles* along the remaining *masticatory border*, usually decreasing in size basad, or there may be only 1 or 2 *preapical* teeth, or only a *preapical angle*, followed basad by the straight or nearly straight masticatory border. Often the masticatory border has a concave channel running most of its length, separating *dorsal* and *ventral margins*; the *dorsal margin*, when developed, is frequently cultrate, while the *ventral margin* is often at least partly denticulate or crenulate, but these features vary considerably among species, particularly in *Anochetus*, when present at all.

The mandibular bases each consist of a large, complex *condylar head*, extending lateral to and below the level of the shafts, and these condylar heads are fitted into elaborate sockets in the anterior and anterolateral cranium in such a way that the axes of swing are situated rather close together on the anteromedian aspect of the cranium. The clypeus is short, with indefinite posterolateral borders; its median portion is raised, forming a thick, inverted U, the arms of which form a pair of small, rounded lobes, each capping the condylar axis of a mandible. The rounded posterior median part of the clypeus merges into the narrow «frontal triangle», wedged between the posteriorly converging inside margins of the frontal carinae, which meet a little farther back. Lobes of frontal carinae moderately expanded, covering at least part of antennal insertions.

The narrowed posterior part of the cranium consists entirely, in dorsal or lateral view, of the hypertrophied *vertex*, packed with mandibular muscles. The dorsal and lateral surfaces of the cranium are separated from the *occipital face* by a distinct *nuchal carina* (figs. 3, 4), which runs clear around the back of the head and onto the ventral surface, where it is nearly or quite complete at the midline. Presumably, as in other aculeate Hymenoptera, the true occiput is limited to a narrow area bordering the foramen magnum. The cranium is always broader than it is deep dorsoventrally. As seen from dorsal full-face view, the