

effect is shocking and quickly painful. However, at least in the case of *O. bauri*, I did not suffer for long; in a few minutes the pain had subsided, leaving only a slight lingering tenderness. Apparently *O. hastatus* and members of the *tyrannicus* group have more potent stings, but I have not personally experienced them.

Most of the smaller and medium-sized *Anochetus* species feign death when disturbed, crouching flat against the surface, or rolling themselves into a ball and remaining still, often for a minute or more. Only when held do they sting. Their stings can be felt in most cases, but the effect is usually trifling.

Distribution of *Odontomachiti*

Like most major ponerine taxa, the odontomachites are primarily tropical and subtropical on all continents and large islands, with a few species extending north and south into temperate regions. In northeastern China, *Odontomachus monticola* extends to the end of the North China Plain, to the northwest of Peking, where the winters can be quite cold, and the climate is comparable to that of Kansas. In North America, *Odontomachus clarus* reaches central Texas and southern Arizona, while *O. haematodus* and *Anochetus altisquamis* have their southern limits near Tucumán, in northwestern Argentina. *Anochetus ghilianii*, basically a Moroccan-Algerian species, is found on the north shore of the Strait of Gibraltar, the only point at which odontomachites are known to have been established in Europe. *Anochetus levailanti* occurs near Grahamstown, South Africa, and it doubtless reaches the coast of the Cape Province; *A. punctaticeps* is already known from south coastal localities. In Australia, *Odontomachus ruficeps* and *Anochetus armstrongi* reach the mallee country in the interior of Victoria, and *O. ruficeps* also is widespread in the interior of southwestern Australia.

Wilson and Taylor (1967) found that *Odontomachus simillimus* is widespread in central Polynesia; *Anochetus graeffei* also reaches Samoa, New Caledonia, etc., and *A. splendidulus* occurs on several islands in Micronesia. Elsewhere, *O. brunneus* was once established on Bermuda (Haskins and Haskins, 1965) and is on Clipperton Island, in the Pacific 670 miles southwest of Mexico (Taylor and Wilson, 1962: 142, as *O. insularis*). *O. clarus* is on Clarion Island, off Mexico, *O. bauri* is in the