

Furche», fairly obviously referring to a narrow, darkened, suture-like median groove dividing the posterior part of the dorsal surface of the cranium — the region incorrectly called «occiput» in most myrmecological descriptions. He stated that *Stenomyrmex* has a shallow elongate impression in place of this groove, and that it is lacking in *Anochetus*. With a representation of species now much increased over what Mayr knew, we can discount the mere presence of a dorsal groove itself as a generic character, since a morphocline of conditions exists. But in looking at this groove in different species, I noticed something else. The semi-circular posterior excision of the head found in all the species of these genera is bordered by a fine carina that passes across the back of the head and down under to its ventral surface, separating the dorsal surface (vertex) of the head from a posterior surface that we can call the «occipital face», while admitting that the true occiput in ants and many other Hymenoptera is a problematical region, possibly limited to a narrow rim around the foramen magnum. The carina separating the vertex from the occipital face can be called the «nuchal carina» as a neutral term, derived from vertebrate morphology, of course without any implication of homology.

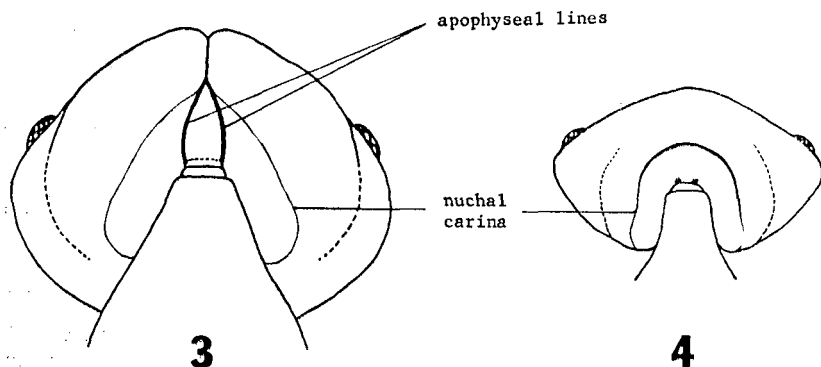


Fig. 3, *Odontomachus infandus* from Cuernos Mts., Negros Oriental, Philippine Is.
Fig. 4, *Anochetus gladiator* from Mt. Klabat, NE Celebes. Workers, posterior end of head, to show characters distinguishing the genera.

The nuchal carina in *Anochetus* is evenly and continuously curved across the midline, while in *Odontomachus* it forms a «V» or wedge narrowing dorsad into the middorsal groove.