

The *infandus* group is related to the *tyrannicus* and *saevissimus* groups, and like them, it has palpi segmented 4,4; long, acute, apical, intercalary and subapical mandibular teeth; and a strong preapical series of teeth. But it also shows variable broadening of the vertex and at times some tendency toward the formation of a dome-shaped petiolar node (fig. 9). The species belonging here are still not all satisfactorily defined; they are inhabitants of New Guinea, eastern Indonesia and the Philippines, with one known species in Viet Nam. They are *infandus*, *papuanus*, *latissimus*, *silvestrii*, *sumbensis*, *floresensis*, *banksi*, *animosus*, *angulatus* and *malignus*.

The *rixosus* group includes the 3 species *rixosus*, *latidens* and *monticola* of mainland eastern Asia and the Greater Sunda Islands, a distribution largely complementary to that of the *infandus* group. The *rixosus* group has a truncate or (as worn) low and rounded subapical mandibular tooth, at least in medium-sized and large workers, the head tends to be fairly broad behind, and there is a further tendency towards height reduction and «doming» of the petiolar node. The palpal formula is still 4,4.

The *ruficeps* group includes *ruficeps*, *cephalotes* and *aciculatus*, from central and western Melanesia and Australia. The first 2 of these, and possibly even all 3, are doubtfully separable as species. The workers are broad-headed, with allometric mandibles; small workers tend to have more slender mandibles with the apical trio of teeth all slender and acute, while large workers have thick mandibles with the apical trio, especially the subapical tooth, short and blunt, or truncate. The head is broad and the petiolar node, while very variable, tends to be thick and often more or less dome-shaped. The gastric dorsum is more or less distinctly striate, coriaceous or otherwise superficially sculptured, at least in part. Palpi segmented 4,4.

The *assiniensis* group includes a single variable species of wet tropical Africa, *O. assiniensis*, which has a broad head and relatively thick mandibles, and a petiolar node more or less like that of the *ruficeps* or *rixosus* groups, with a smooth gastric dorsum. It may be the vicariant of either (or both) of these groups in Africa. Palpi segmented 4,4.

The *haematodus* group includes the large majority (19/23) of New World *Odontomachus* species: *affinis*, *allolabis*, *bauri*, *biolleyi*, *biumbonatus*, *brunneus*, *caelatus*, *chelifer*, *clarus*, *erythrocephalus*, *haematodus*, *insularis*, *laticeps*, *mayi*, *minutus*, *opaciventris*, *panamensis*, *spissus*, *yucatecus*. In the Old World, *simillimus* (Indo-Pacific) and *troglydites* (Africa-Madagascar) are its only members.

These species are united by the 4,3 palpal formula, checked during this study for all except *panamensis*, *biolleyi*, and *spissus*, for which suitable material was unavailable. These are so obviously linked to the *haematodus* group by other characters that I have little doubt that the labial palpomere counts conform also.

Within the group we can recognize some indistinct subgroups: *O. affinis*, *O. mayi* and *O. panamensis* are obviously closely related by their smooth vertex and other characters. The tiny *O. spissus* of northern Mato Grosso also has the vertex smooth, but its short scapes and head shape suggest that it may be a specialized offshoot of something like *O. minutus* or *O. brunneus*. *O. chelifer*, the largest species, is also the most slender (Cl 52-61); it may be a relict of the primitive stock of the group in tropical America, but its relatively short, heavy mandibles are like those of its relatives.

If we except *chelifer* and such aberrant narrow-headed members as *allolabis*, we can characterize the *haematodus* group as with broad head