

(vertex) and short, stout mandibles with relatively short, blunt teeth (at least as worn in larger specimens) in the group of 3 (or 2) at each apex.

The subapical tooth is especially short; in large specimens that are at all worn, this tooth is scarcely or not at all projecting beyond the inner mandibular border. In callow workers, the subapical tooth consists of 2 low, obtuse points with a concavity between them — the whole thing apparently being a reduced homolog of the truncate or hollow-ended subapical tooth as seen in the *rixosus* group. The 2 points are made of thin material, easily worn away, so that the subapical tooth soon becomes, first an angular, then later a rounded, end to the inner mandibular border. The denticles along the inner mandibular (masticatory) borders are at an extreme of reduction for the genus; the apical third or more of this margin varies from edentate (cultrate) to crenulate, with worn, blunt denticles in the middle part, giving way to sharper but finer serration near the base of the mandible. Thus the mandibles, after considerable evolution, have arrived at being a short, heavy pair of shears with blunt, bludgeon-like tips.

The antennae tend to be shorter than in other groups, probably in coadaptation to the shorter mandibles, and this shows up especially in the scapes, which often in larger workers of *haematodus*-group species surpass the posterior border of the head only slightly when they are held straight back; sometimes they even fall short, and in *O. spissus* they always fail to reach the border by a wide margin.

Keys to Species

Note: Before trying the keys, the user should be aware of the special conditions of measurement of this genus, especially for HL and HW (see p. 95). Descriptive statements, especially those concerning gastric sculpture and pubescence, are based on clean, unrubbed specimens; dirty or worn specimens can be misleading. These statements also ignore the normal presence of scattered, coarse piligerous punctures on the gastric dorsum in nearly all of the species.

Queens can often be determined using worker characters, but it should be remembered that queens are usually larger than the corresponding workers, and differ from workers by some allometric characters; e. g., queens often have (proportionately) wider vertex, shorter mandibles and antennal scapes, and antero-posteriorly more compressed petiolar node — the nodal form often being strikingly different in the two castes.

Key to New World Species of *Odontomachus* — Workers

1. Dorsal surface of head distinctly striate to or nearly to the nuchal carina 2
- Posterior third to half of dorsal surface of head smooth and shining, or nearly so 17