

I believe that comparison now shows that *O. aeneus* and *O. aciculatus* are conspecific, and formal synonymy is indicated. The synonymy of *O. aciculatus* with *O. cephalotes* (and eventually with *O. ruficeps*) is regarded as a possibility for future investigation. Further samples of this complex are needed, particularly whole nest series from West Irian, in order better to judge the variability of the gastric sculpture and metallescence traits.

[3] *O. affinis*, *O. mayi* and *O. panamensis* form a tight subgroup within the *haematodus* group. Although the 3 species are very similar, *affinis* averages larger in size (Table I) and is darker (reddish-brown) in color, and, as Kempf has pointed out, it lacks the strongly salient anteroventral lobes of the mesepisternum that are characteristic of *O. mayi* (fig. 11). *O. affinis* and *O. mayi* differ more strikingly in distribution and habits. *O. affinis* is restricted to wet subtropical forests in SE Brasil (Espírito Santo to Santa Catarina). In São Paulo State, at least, it occurs in and under rotten logs in plateau forest; I did not find it in the warmer lowland forest along the coast.

*O. mayi* is a medium-sized species, in life a bright ferruginous in color, which fades somewhat in preserved specimens. In our travels in the Amazon in 1962, Karol Lenko and I found this species 3 times in the Manaus and Benjamin Constant areas, each time in forests in mixed «ant-garden» nests with the similarly-colored but much smaller dolichoderine *Monacis rufescens*, the same ant with which Mann first found it in the Amazon Basin. In 1971, however, my wife and I took an unmixed colony of *O. mayi* in a bromeliad growing on a tree in «caatinga» forest on white sand 61 km north of Manaus on the road then being constructed northward to Caracaraí («Estrada Rio Branco»).

This species is known from Amapá Territory and also from the Guyanas; a winged queen in MNHN-Paris bears the label «Haut Carsevenne» [French Guyana] and was collected by Geay.

The still smaller form *O. panamensis* (fig. 12) lacks the protruding lobes of the lower mesepisternum, but dried specimens are similar to *O. mayi* in color. The nesting habits of *O. panamensis*, so far collected only in forest in Panama and Costa Rica, remain unknown. Until we have more information about this species, doubts will remain about its distinctness from *O. mayi*.

[4] I did not record any examination of the type of *O. politus* during a hasty visit to the Museum für Naturkunde in East