

shade. At Wodeng, the ants were foraging by day on the floor of a shady remnant of tropical evergreen forest growing on a hillside seepage area. In life, the red head and yellow legs are bright and contrast with the blackish color of the rest of the body; the pattern is probably aposematic. The color pattern is the best means of distinguishing *O. animosus*, a similar form of the *infandus* group. *O. sumbensis* is similar, but has the vertex and pronotal disc smooth, and the petiolar node and spine lower. As stated elsewhere, all of these forms could possibly be geographical representatives of *animosus* or another species in the *infandus* group, but I am following the hypothesis that the insular forms, at least, are member species of a superspecies.

[17] The *Odontomachus* of the *haematodus* group are found primarily in the New World tropics, where they are represented by a number of species so closely related, and at the same time so variable, that they have defied analysis for more than a century. Mostly, these species have been considered to belong to a single protean species, *O. haematodus*, with or without distinction as subspecies or varieties. Applying the modern biological species concept, I found it fairly easy ten to twenty years ago to distinguish a number of the forms as good species. Furthermore, the identity of the Linnean species *O. haematodus* was established from the color details, «pedes flavi... Corpus nigrum» and the circumstances of collection (by Linnaeus' student Rolander during his brief sojourn in Paramaribo) explicit and implicit in the original description. This species proved to be the most commonly collected wet tropical forest species in Brasil and neighboring cisandean countries south of the Llanos. But serious problems remained. Another large, dark-colored, coarsely striate species was found to occur in Central America, transandean South America, and sporadically throughout forested parts of Brasil, here often sympatrically with *O. haematodus*. This species corresponds to the types of Emery's *O. bauri* from the Galapagos, and Forel's *O. haematodus* var. *rugisquama* from Costa Rica. Unfortunately, a few samples that appeared to be intergradient between the «typical» *haematodus* and *bauri* were found in southeastern Venezuela, near the boundary between the Llanos and the Guyanan forest, as well as farther north in Venezuela, and some apparent intergrades even turned up within the Amazonian forests in northern Brasil and elsewhere.

Samples from Trinidad, the Lesser Antilles, Puerto Rico and Hispaniola also were found to be intermediate between *haematodus* and *bauri* in sculpture and color. I was unable to explain this situation to myself without assuming widespread hybridization at some sympatric localities, but not at others, and this interpre-