both Mokanshan and Chao Kung Shan, *O. monticola* is a common ant, and it seems unlikely to me that *pauperculus* can represent a distinct sympatric species. Rather, it appears to be only the nanitic worker of *monticola,* in this case one that shows an allometric decline of the striate sculpture. This hypothesis is supported by the HW/HL plot, on which *O. monticola* and *O. pauperculus* share a common regression axis.

In the hills of Assam and Burma and in the Ryukyus, the tendency for striation of vertex and pronotum to be effaced affects not only the small-sized workers, though many of these are smaller than most in China, but also those of workers with HL in the neighborhood of 2.50 or greater. Workers from 3 separate Okinawan collections (F. G. Werner, C. T. Parsons) with HL 2.14-2.57 mm have vertex smooth and pronotum nearly so. The type of var. *longi* (Assam) is on the small side, and has both vertex and pronotal striation largely effaced, whereas subsp. *punctulatus,* also from Assam, is larger and has the vertex smooth but the pronotum striate, like the Indo-Chinese specimens, including the *monticola* types. Forel's statement about the more distinct division of the «occiput» and the deeper median furrow thereof in *punctulatus* is difficult for me to appreciate when comparison is made using *monticola* syntypes in his collection; this and the puncture character he cites are trifling at best. Menozzi's *O. latidens striata,* judging from the description, is just the common Chinese mainland form of *monticola,* resembling other specimens in MCZ from Hong Kong, its type locality. Syntypes of the varieties *formosae* and *major* in the Forel Collection and MNK-Berlin are only smaller and larger variants, respectively, of the Taiwanese population of *O. monticola.* The variety *hainanensis* (MNK-Berlin) is like the mainland *monticola.*

The tendency of southern and eastern populations of *monticola* to lose the striation of the vertex and pronotum is interesting because this trend — at least the smooth or nearly smooth vertex — is a more constant characteristic of the two southern neighbors, *O. rixosus* and *O. latidens,* which are so closely similar to each other and to *O. monticola* that it is not even now completely clear to me that all three are really separate species. The possibility must be considered that *latidens,* and perhaps even *rixosus,* are the tropical representatives of the Chinese *monticola.*

Although I feel that the evidence favors treating the three as separate species, we will not be sure of this relationship until