

*linae* Donisthorpe but differs markedly from that species in its smaller size, distinctive coloration, and *papuanus*-type petiolar node». In his photograph (Wilson 1959: fig. 4, no. 8), however, the node of the holotype of *gressitti* is clearly of the *saevissimus-imperator* form by Wilson's own criteria, except that the spine is not slightly decurved, as it is in most *saevissimus*-complex specimens. This is a very variable character, and the variation appears to be partly allometric. In any case, Wilson's description of the *O. gressitti* holotype agrees well with a slightly larger (but still small, HL 3.60 mm) worker, one of those from Kokure, Bougainville, just cited above.

In the fairly extensive material now available, *rufithorax* and *saevissimus* seem to be distinguishable over a wide range from western New Guinea through the Solomons, and though the distinction is mainly one of color, I see no reason to treat them as other than good species on the present evidence.

[29] The MCZ has 3 syntype workers of *O. silvestrii* (Dong Mo, Indochina) and 5 of its var. *substriatus* (Tocco, Indochina); both series were collected in 1925 by F. Silvestri. The *substriatus* types are badly leached and partly collapsed, as though they had been in caustic or acid, and the differences cited by Wheeler disappear when this condition is considered. This is a slender species with prominent teeth along the inner mandibular borders; it is smaller than *infandus*, and has a peculiar thickset petiolar node that is rather suddenly narrowed above into the apical tooth. The densely and finely punctate gastric dorsum, with correspondingly dense pubescence, is characteristic.

[30] *O. simillimus*, known through most of the literature as «*O. haematodes*», was revised by Wilson (1959: 499-500), and its Pacific distribution is outlined in Wilson and Taylor (1967: 31-32). There remain to be added the junior synonyms *Ponera pallidicornis* (based on a male specimen from Makassar, Celebes; type in BMNH-London, examined) and *O. haematodus* var. *breviceps* (based on a worker from Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean south of Java; type in BMNH-London, examined).

*O. simillimus* workers (fig. 1) and queens have mostly rather fine, glossy dorsal striation on head and trunk, and they are closely related to *O. haematodus* and *O. troglodytes*, but unlike these two species, *simillimus* has the metasternal process low and rounded, much as in fig. 5.