

A NEW GENUS OF PONERINE ANTS
FROM WEST AFRICA
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) WITH
ECOLOGICAL NOTES

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During work in recent years in the Ivory Coast, one of us (Jean Lévieux) has collected 4 colonies and colony-fragments of an extraordinary small ponerine ant belonging to a new genus apparently related to *Amblyopone*, but having the petiole separated from the postpetiole by a deep vertical constriction. The formal description of this genus and species is offered below.

The characterization is greatly enhanced by scanning electron micrographs (Plates I, II) taken by Prof. Howard E. Hinton of the University of Bristol, England, for whose generosity we are most grateful.

Apomyrma genus nov.

Worker: Habitus in life and to the naked eye much that of a very small, slender, shining *Amblyopone*. Also reminiscent of *Leptanilla*.

Head oblong, depressed, parallel-sided, with rounded corners (like that of many female pristicerine Bethyilidae), anterior corners of head unarmed. Eyes and ocelli lacking. Antennae 12-segmented, scapes very short and clavate, funiculus robust, with an indistinct 4-merous club. Antennal sockets round, impressed, completely exposed, the frontal carinae extremely reduced and indistinguishably fused with the reduced median portion of the clypeus to produce a small, subtriangular tumulus or convex platform that trails a brief septum posteriad scarcely beyond the level of the posterior socket

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