

possible to determine whether true ocelli are also present or not. If so, they are extremely reduced. Other important features noted were the well-developed metapleural glands, a basic diagnostic character of the Formicidae, and the irregular, serially arranged mandibular dentition.

The two *Nothomyrmecia* workers were collected by a small excursion party journeying in the isolated mallee and heath country south of Balladonia, during the period December 7, 1931, to January 7, 1932. A general collection of insects was made by several persons in the party, and this was later turned over to Mrs A. E. Crocker (née Baesjou), of Balladonia Station, an amateur entomologist. Unfortunately, no specific locality records were kept,

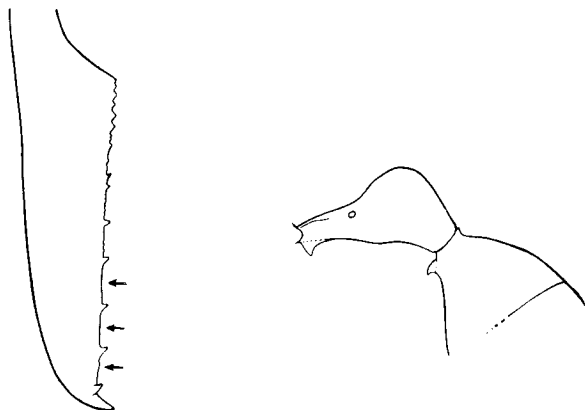


Fig. 2.—(Left) Drawing of the right jaw of *Nothomyrmecia macrops*, much enlarged, showing teeth. The arrows indicate parts of the border that were seen to be very finely serrate at higher magnifications. (Right) Detail of the petiole or "waist" of *N. macrops* and its attachment to the gaster. These drawings were made by E. O. Wilson in 1955 from one of the two original specimens.

and all of the material was placed together in common collecting bottles. Mrs Vern Thomas, who was a member of the party, recalls (*in litt.*) that most of the travelling was done by truck, with horses being used for occasional side trips into rough country. On the first day (December 7) a luncheon stop was made at Mt. Ragged, but apparently very little collecting was accomplished there. The same night, camp was made south of Mt. Ragged at a spot sometimes referred to locally as "Goora" (see map). Here insects were collected in mallee-heath transition during the early evening. The following day, camp was made south of Thomas River on the coast. In the next several weeks numerous excursions were made inside a ten-mile radius, and during this time insects were collected intermittently. On the final trip from the Thomas River to Esperance, collecting was conducted in the sandplain heath along the Esperance-Israelite Bay track. Mrs Thomas has no specific recollection of the collection of the *Nothomyrmecia*, but Mrs Crocker person-