

The ants of the Papuanian genus *Dacatinops* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae)

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Abstract. Four species of *Dacatinops* are reported from Borneo (*D. cirrosus* n. sp., *D. concinnus* Taylor, *D. solivagus* n. sp., and *D. wilsoni* n. sp.), and three from Papua New Guinea (*D. cibdelus* Brown and Wilson, *D. darlingtoni* n. sp., and *D. ignotus* n. sp.). The Bornean species are all sympatric in western Sarawak. Elsewhere, *D. cirrosus*, *concinnus*, and *solivagus* are known from eastern Sabah, *D. concinnus* from the extreme southeast of Indonesian Kalimantan, and *D. cirrosus* from Trengganu and Johore States on peninsular Malaysia. *Dacatinops* is known on New Guinea only north of the axial cordillera, where *D. cibdelus* is widespread between about longitudes 145°30' and 148°30' E, and the other species are known only from the Popondetta-Kokoda area (Northern Province), where both are sympatric with *D. cibdelus*. Males of the genus are characterized for the first time, and females described for six species. Some inadequately understood attributes of scanning electron micrograph plates, as used in this paper, and more generally in insect taxonomy, are reviewed.

Introduction

The myrmicine ant genus *Dacatinops* Brown & Wilson currently includes seven known species, five of which are described here as new.

These insects first attracted scientific attention in May 1955, when 10 workers, three dealate females, and several larvae were collected near Lae, Papua New Guinea, by Edward O. Wilson. These became the types of *D. cibdelus*¹ Brown and Wilson (1957), type-species of the new genus *Dacatinops*. The larvae were described by G.C. and J. Wheeler (1957).

It is of some interest that several specimens of *D. cibdelus* had in fact been taken over 50 years previously in the Astrolabe Bay area, by the pioneering Hungarian New Guinea collector Lajos Biró, whose history has been narrated by Balogh and Allodiatoris (1972). These specimens were not detected among unsorted accessions in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, until recently recognised by the author.

¹ Under a 1972 decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, concerning Article 30(a)(i)(2) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, all names of the genus group ending in *-ops* must take the masculine gender (Bull. zool. Nomencl. 29 (4): 180-182). This applies to *Dacatinops*, despite its grammatically correct feminine attribution by previous authors.