

Males are present in the BMNH collection.

Biology.— The known distribution of *P. scissa* ranges from Southern India to Sri Lanka. Little is known about its biology. Wroughton (1892) noted that the nest was 'very small and composed almost entirely of some spun material', while Forel (1892, 1893) described it as a carton nest in leaf rolls built by gall-inducing insects. However, in his classification of nests, Forel (1909) listed the nest of *scissa* under 'doubtful nests' and remarked that these seem to be made of pure carton. Escherich (1917) reported a carton nest made of plant particles glued together with glandular substances. Forel (1908) described the habitat of the species as 'under a bamboo at the border of the jungle, isolated on the bamboo, at the border of the forest'. Maschwitz (pers. comm.) observed a nest of *P. scissa* in a relatively dry monsoon forest close to the shore at Yala National Park, Sri Lanka in March 1977. It was built on a shrub in about 2 m height as a flexible silk web with incorporated detritus around a branch of 2-3 cm in diameter. The nest was about 5 cm long. Maschwitz also collected 2 dealate *scissa* females at Anuradhapura at the end of January and at the beginning of February 1972. The workers of *scissa* behave in the manner typical of most *Polyrhachis* species - in danger they hide below the leaves.

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