

*Ants from North and South-West Australia (G. F. Hill, Rowland Turner) and Christmas Island, Straits Settlements.*—Part II. By W. C. CRAWLEY, B.A.

I. Subfam. *PONERINÆ*.

*Myrmecia sanguinea*, Sm.

Yallingup, S.W. Australia (Rowland Turner). ♀.

*Euponera (Brachyponera) lutea*, Mayr.

Yallingup.

No. 89. *Rhytidoponera* (s. str.) *flava*, sp. n.

♂.—L. 8 mm.

Mandibles large, triangular, the terminal border regularly dentate; finely striate. Anterior border of clypeus regularly curved; frontal area indistinct. Head longer than broad, eyes large, placed in the centre of the sides of head, of which they occupy three-quarters; ocelli large and prominent. Frontal carinæ short, diverging behind; scape of 13-jointed antennæ slightly shorter than the second joint of funiculus, first joint of latter as broad as long; from the second joint of funiculus, which is the longest, the joints gradually diminish in length until the terminal, which is slightly longer than the preceding one. Mesonotum high and arched, Mayrian furrows almost invisible; scutellum prominent, rather small, and wider in front; epinotum longer than broad, with convex sides, only slightly narrower behind than in front. Upper wings with two cubital closed and two discoidal cells. Pedicel long and narrow, somewhat cylindrical, only slightly higher behind; underneath in front is a long, very thin, vertical spine. Gaster a little more than twice as long as broad, first segment (or post-petiole) as long as the second, the constriction between them moderately pronounced. Tibiæ of the two posterior pairs of legs with two spurs, the inner long and pectinate, very shortly so in the middle pair and longer in the posterior pair. Claws bifid.

Head and thorax coarsely rugose; on the declivous surface of epinotum the rugosities radiate from a central ridge; node of pedicel transversely striate. First segment of gaster finely striate longitudinally, the lateral striæ curving inwards and encircling the base; second segment finely striate transversely, the striæ having a tendency to curve upwards; the remaining segments transversely striate. In one specimen the node and gaster are shining, the striæ on the former being more feeble, those on the first segment of gaster are only apparent at the sides and base, and on the second segment they are diagonal, the central ones almost longitudinal.

Pilosity sparse and scattered, yellow; scapes and tibiæ with erect hairs.

Chestnut, head and mesonotum darker.

Darwin, N.T., 1. vi. 13 (*Hill*). 3 ♂♂.

As no ♀♀ were captured with these ♂♂, I have thought it best to describe them provisionally as a new species, and have placed them in the subgenus *Rhytidoponera* (s. str.), although in the length of the scape and second joint of funiculus they do not entirely accord with Emery's characters given in the 'Genera Insectorum.' The number of males known is, however, small.

III. Subfam. *MYRMICINÆ*.No. 31. *Pheidole platypus*, sp. n.

♀.—L. 6·5–7·5 mm.

Mandibles very thick, coarsely striate, terminal border irregularly dentate when not worn to an irregular edge, no prominent teeth at apex. Clypeus emarginate in front, coarsely striate; frontal area small, deep, triangular. Head much longer than broad, with subparallel sides, emargination at back deep, wide, and triangular. Frontal carinæ half as long as the scape, which only reaches one-third of the distance from its base to the occiput. Eyes placed at the commencement of the anterior quarter of sides of head. There is a deep impression from the emargination of the occiput to the vertex. Tarsi of first pair of legs broad and flat. Promesonotum very high and rounded, pronotal protuberances sharp, terminated by small teeth or spines. Basal and declivous surfaces of epinotum of equal length, the spines short and narrow, half as long as the basal surface. First node narrow at top, widely emarginate, second node wider than long, without lateral angles. Gaster (when not distended) small and oval.

Whole of upper side of head coarsely striate longitudinally, the striæ curve outwards round the occiput and return as much finer lines down the sides and under surface of the head. The striæ are coarsest on the occipital lobes, where they have a downward and outward diagonal direction. Pronotum with fine irregular longitudinal ridges, the lateral ones bow-shaped (in some examples the ridges starting from the neck all curve in one direction and are terminated at the lateral tooth), finely reticulate between the ridges. Mesonotum with curved transverse ridges, the convexity of the curves towards the posterior border; occasionally the central ridges have a circular tendency; there is a faint reticulation between the ridges. Epinotum finely reticulate and longitudinally striate, the striæ not descending below the interval between the spines; from the base of the latter coarse striæ diverge outwards and up the sides. Nodes of pedicel finely reticulate, the second with a few longitudinal striæ. First segment of gaster faintly reticulate and with irregular longitudinal sculpture.

There is a yellow pilosity over the whole body; scapes and tibiæ with abundant hairs.

Dark red-brown; mandibles almost black, gaster brown.

♂.—L. 2–2·5 mm.

Mandibles striate, with a few punctures near the terminal

border, which is dentate and terminated by two long teeth. Anterior border of clypeus widely and very feebly emarginate, almost straight; there is a ridge down its centre. Frontal area deep, rounded at top. Head somewhat longer than wide, with slightly convex sides; back widely emarginate. The scapes reach the occipital border or a fraction farther. Eyes prominent, slightly in front of the centre of sides. Promesonotum high and regularly curved, broader in front; at the centre of each side is a tooth-like ridge. Basal surface of epinotum longer than declivous surface; spines much shorter than basal surface, about as long as the interval between them. First node narrow, straight across the top; second node oval, longer than broad.

Head coarsely striate longitudinally and finely reticulate. Thorax and pedicel finely reticulate; pronotum with a few longitudinal ridges; a few ridges joining the mesonotum to the epinotum. Front of first segment of gaster faintly reticulate.

Body with yellow hairs; erect hairs on scapes and tibiae.

Yellow to red-brown. In dark specimens the antennae, tarsi, and joints of legs paler.

Stapleton, N.T., 1. v. 13 (*Hill*).

No. 214. *Pheidole megacephala*, F.

♂. Batchelor, N.T., 20. ix. 13 (*Hill*).

Cosmopolitan species.

No. 32. *Pheidole variabilis*, Mayr., var. *redunca*, var. n.

♂.—L. 2.7 mm.

Clypeus emarginate in front, with a ridge down the centre. The ridges continuing the frontal carinae are two-thirds as long as the scapes, which reach beyond the half distance from their bases to the occiput. Eyes just within the anterior third of sides of head. The impression from the occipital emargination is continued to the vertex. Spines as long as the basal surface of epinotum and longer than the interval between them.

Whole of upper and under surfaces of head finely reticulate; in addition, the under surface of front of head, the cheeks, and the whole of the top of head longitudinally striate; the ridges on each side of the central impression curve round the lobes of the occiput and continue down the sides of the head, those farther from the central impression making a narrow

curve within the larger ones and returning parallel to their origin by the insertions of the antennæ.

♂. L. 1.7 mm.

Similar to the type.

Darwin, N.T., 5. vii. 13 (*Hill*). ♀.

*Crematogaster australis*, Mayr.

Yallingup (*Turner*). ♀.

IV. Subfam. *DOLICHODERINÆ*.

No. 18. *Tapinoma minutum*, Mayr.

Darwin, N.T., 5. vii. 13 (*Hill*). ♀.

*Iridomyrmex conifer*, Forel.

Yallingup (*Turner*). ♀.

V. Subfam. *CAMPONOTINÆ*.

*Camponotus (Myrmosaga) chalceus*, sp. n.

♂ major.—L. 9–9.5 mm.

Mandibles 5-dentate, coarsely striated, with a few punctures. Clypeus shield-shaped, not carinate, with a small deep emargination at the anterior border. Frontal area in the form of a right-angled triangle. Head slightly longer than broad, the sides almost parallel for two-thirds of their length, then narrowing rapidly, posterior border feebly concave. Eyes placed at the commencement of the hinder third of sides of head. Pro-mesonotum forms a regular curve in profile, the pronotum broad, with slight shoulders. Basal surface of epinotum deeply concave longitudinally, in the form of a saddle, declivous surface abrupt, almost perpendicular, slightly shorter than the basal surface. Scale high, fairly thin, somewhat wider at the top, which is nearly straight.

Head, pro- and mesonota finely reticulate-punctate; head in addition, particularly on the clypeus and cheeks, with large irregular punctures. Epinotum and scale finely striated transversely. Gaster very finely reticulated.

Body with fairly plentiful, erect, yellowish-white hairs, more sparse on the thorax, occasionally two or three on the scapes, and a row underneath the tibiæ; both scapes and tibiæ slightly pubescent, also thorax and gaster.

Black; legs, declivous surface and sides of basal surface of epinotum, and a patch on the metasternum (and sometimes on the mesosternum) dull red. Gaster bronzed.

♂ minor.—L. 7 mm.

Emargination of clypeus wider and not so deep. The concave basal surface of epinotum longer in proportion. The epinotum is often entirely dull red, and there is a small red patch on the mesosternum. Head sometimes with a faint bronze reflection. Scale proportionately much thicker, and more rounded on the top. Gaster bronzed.

♀.—L. 11.5 mm.

Emargination of clypeus as in ♂ major. Head rather wider than thorax. Pronotum very slightly shouldered. Basal surface of epinotum straight, and only one-third as long as the declivous surface. Sculpture as in ♂ major, except that the basal surface of epinotum is more reticulate than striate.

Colour as in ♂ major, except that the red extends from the sides across the top of the basal surface of epinotum, and there is a red patch on the mesosternum. The top of the scale also is red.

Yallingup, S.W. Australia (*Rowland Turner*). ♀ ♀.

From the description of the ♂ minor it will be seen that this ant very closely resembles the *C. (Myrmosaga) dewitzii*, Forel, from the Congo, described in the Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sci. nat. 1886 (♂ minor).

No. 85. *Polyrhachis comata*, sp. n., group *guerini*.

♂.—L. 5 mm.

Mandibles shining, densely striate (more coarsely than in *guerini*), with 4 (? 5) teeth. Clypeus subcarinate, the anterior margin produced in a short lobe (shorter and broader than in *guerini*), with a concave border and five small teeth. Frontal carinæ short, wider apart than the distance from each to the sides of the head, fairly divergent, and reaching the anterior margin of the eyes. The latter are placed near the posterior border of head and are not very prominent. Head slightly longer than broad, broader behind than in front, slightly convex behind, sides convex. Pronotum broader in front, the sides rectilineal and bordered; the teeth at the anterior angles of medium length, about twice as long as their width at base. Pro-mesonotal suture distinct, meso-epinotal less so. Epinotum with two spines as long as the width between them; declivous longer than basal surface. Pedicel with long curved spines, like buffalo's horns, thick at base, encircling the first segment of gaster. The first segment of the latter more than twice as long as the rest of the gaster, the whole rounded, about as broad as long.

Head finely reticulate, the sculpture almost concealed by the pubescence; opaque (shining and striate in *guerini*). Scapes finely reticulate. Thorax and pedicel (except the apical half of all the spines) coarsely reticulate-rugose, shining between the reticulations. On the lower half of the back of pedicel, between the spines, the rugosities take a transverse direction. Legs finely reticulate. Gaster very finely reticulate-punctate, the sculpture almost hidden by the pubescence. Erect hairs on head yellowish, on pro- and epinotum darker, on gaster golden. Pubescence on head very thick, silver-grey. Of the thorax, the epinotum only is pubescent, similarly to the head. On the gaster the pubescence is pale golden, merging into grey underneath. The femora and tibiae have a slight silvery pubescence.

Stapleton, N.T., 22. xii. 12 (*Hill*). ♂.

No. 12. *Polyrhachis delicata*, sp. n.

♂.—L. 5.5–6 mm.

Mandibles 5-dentate, shining, with minute piligerous points; finely striate at base. Clypeus carinate, produced anteriorly into a slight lobe with a straight edge and pointed angles. Frontal area distinct, in the form of an equilateral triangle. Frontal carinæ long, very slightly convergent behind (similar to *thrinax*). Head longer than broad, wider behind than in front, occipital border not so rounded as in *thrinax*; eyes prominent, placed in the posterior third of sides. Thorax fairly regularly curved to the spines, pronotum shouldered, with very small teeth at the angles. Promesonotal and meso-epinotal sutures distinct; mesonotum broader in front; the two surfaces of epinotum equal in length, the declivous surface convex; the epinotum with two straight narrow spines, two-thirds as long as the basal surface of epinotum; node of pedicel with a thick and fairly high scale, in the centre of which is a long straight spine slightly directed backwards; in advance of this spine on each side is a shorter sharp spine directed outwards. The central spine, which is acuminate, not notched as in *thrinax*, is nearly three times as long as the lateral spines. Gaster round, slightly longer than broad.

Whole of head, thorax, and pedicel densely and finely reticulate, clypeus very finely so; head more rugose between the frontal carinæ and eyes, pronotum more or less longitudinally so; declivous surface of epinotum shining, only faintly and superficially reticulate; gaster shining, very faintly and superficially reticulate.

Pilosity practically nil; a few erect hairs on the mandibles,

clypeus, and between the front carinæ; clypeus slightly pubescent; gaster with a fine pubescence.

Red-brown, head and gaster darkest.

Darwin, N.T., 16. iv. 13 (*Hill*). ♀.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, STRAITS SETTLEMENT.

A few ants were collected in March 1914, and kindly submitted to me by my friend Mr. D. Ward Pinkney. They are as follows:—

*Odontomachus hæmatoda*, L., var. *breviceps*, var. n.

♀.—L. (including mandibles) 8·5 mm.

Length of mandibles 1·2 mm.; width of head 1·6 mm.; length of head 2·1 mm. Head much shorter, broader, and less emarginate behind than in the type. Occipital lobes much more rounded. Head widest at the eyes. Sculpture, pubescence, &c., as in the type.

Colour: dark chestnut, legs paler.

One ♀.

*Triglyphothrix striatidens*, Em., ♀.

*Solenopsis geminata*, F., var. *rufa*, Jerd., 4 ♀ ♀.

*Prenolepis vividula*, Nyl., ♀.

CORRIGENDA (Part I., 'Annals,' ser. 8, vol. xv., Jan. 1915).

P. 134, line 26, for *Eur.* read *Em.*

P. 136, line 22, for *Myrmosphyma* read *Myrmophyma*.