

[21 April 1933]

looked just like the one which was carrying the insect, so I send it for you. I am sorry I failed to get them together. The insect prey was not quite dead as it was moving its legs."

The insects were determined by my friends Mr. R. B. Benson and Mr. Uvarov, as the ♀ Eumenid wasp *E. maxillosa*, de G., and the ♂ Tettigoniid *poia* sp., prob. new, nr. *bicolor*, Br. W. It was unfortunate that the actual insect prey escaped, as the prey is so interesting and hitherto apparently unknown, a kind of insect which a *Eumenes* would be likely to take. It was hoped the question would be settled by observing the habits of these wasps at Bongandanga. The Tettigoniid did indeed appear to be a heavy weight for an insect capable of the size of the *Eumenes*.

### The gentle Driver ant "Baongo," discovered by Miss Vinall at Bongandanga, Congo.

Prof. POULTON said that his friend Mr. H. St. J. Donisthorpe, who had the "Baongo" worker ants forwarded by Miss Vinall, was anxious to obtain a "soldier," if one could be obtained. Miss Vinall, when informed of this, kindly sent further material, including many workers larger than those previously sent and one soldier, with the accompanying note:—

"24 July, 1932.—I had in my killing-bottle a few 'Baongo' Ants caught outside my house, so I hasten to send them off to you in the hope they will arrive in better condition and be more useful than the last. There is one specimen of a 'soldier,' larger than the others. So far I have never seen any forms that resemble these now sent, but we do have swarms of winged ants coming out of the ground at different times of the year: they are, however, quite different, I think, but I will send some of them when we next get a swarm."

Mr. Donisthorpe had sent some specimens of Miss Vinall's earlier collection of "Baongo" to Dr. Santschi, who had determined them as a new variety by him *vinalli*, of *Anomma titan*, Sants.\* The habits were so remarkable that those of all known Driver ants that any information as to the behaviour would be welcome.

### An Ashanti brass model of the Palm-weevil (*Rhynchophorus phoenicis*) employed for weighing gold.

Prof. POULTON exhibited this beautiful model obtained by Capt. R. B. Benson from Abomposu, Ashanti, and kindly presented to the Hope Department by his friend Mr. Henry Balfour, F.R.S. He had submitted the model to his friend Guy Marshall, who said that it undoubtedly represented the Palm-weevil, an excellent reproduction. Mr. Balfour had kindly directed him to Capt.

\* Dr. F. Santschi, of Kairouan, Tunisia, has kindly sent me the following description of "Baongo," of which he had received specimens from Mr. Donisthorpe. They were part of an earlier series posted by Miss Vinall with her letter of 9 January, 1932.—E. B. P.

*Anomma titan*, Sants., *vinalli*, var. n. ♂ (media et minor). Diffère du type par la tête plus foncée, la tête et les mandibules entièrement noirâtres (rougeâtres chez *titan*). Les mandibules plus luisantes. Angles postérieurs de la tête coniques comme chez *titan*. Les mandibules semblables. CONGO BELGE: Haut Congo; Basankusu, Bongandanga. (Miss G. Vinall). F. Santschi, 3 Nov. 1932.