

ENTOMOLOGICAL REPORTS.
FORMICIDAE.

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The collection is a small one, and certainly not representative of the area traversed. Most of the specimens obtained belong to widely distributed species. The collection contains examples of two new species. One of these is of particular interest, being the first specimen of a genus, *Epitritus*, not previously recorded from Australia. This genus is found in New Guinea.

Family FORMICIDAE.

Sub-family PONERINAE.

AMBLYOPONE AUSTRALIS, Erichson.

Arch. f. Naturgh. 8, p. 260, 1842: Wheeler, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts and Science, 62, 1., p. 7, f.I., 1927.

Two workers from Dunkeld and two from the Grampians. This species is widely distributed throughout Southern Australia and Tasmania.

MYRMECIA SIMILLIMA, Smith.

Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6, p. 144, 1858.

Three workers from the Grampians.

A common species in New South Wales. It does not appear to be abundant in Victoria.

MYRMECIA DESERTORUM, Wheeler.

Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust. 39, p. 805, 1915.

Nine workers and two females from Clear Lake district.

Widely distributed throughout the central portion of Australia. It has been recorded as both *vindex* and *nigriceps* from the material collected by various scientific expeditions to Central Australia.

MYRMECIA (PROMYRMECIA) PILOSULA, Smith.

Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6, p. 146, 1858.

Eight workers and one female from the Grampians, and three workers from Mt. Arapiles.

A very abundant and widely distributed species. It is found in all the States. Commonly known as the "black jumper."

ACANTHOPONERA IMBELLIS, Emery.

Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 39, p. 346, 1895.

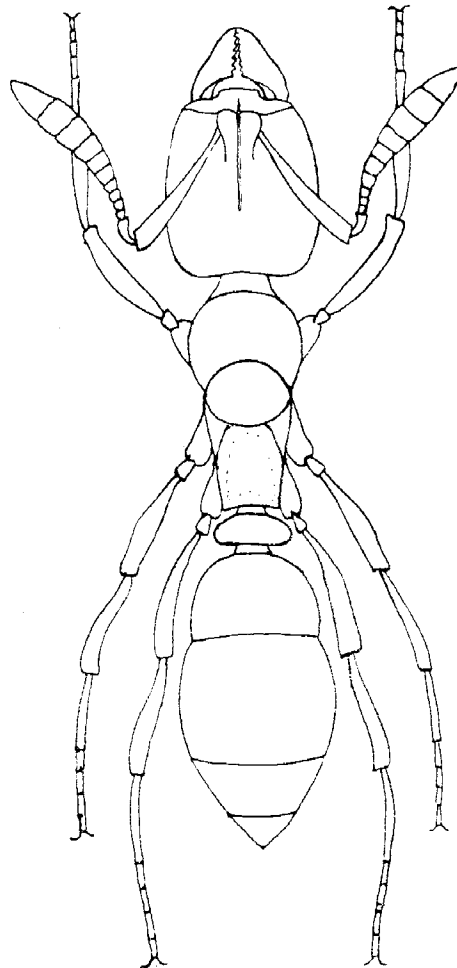
Four workers from Mt. Sturgeon.

Found throughout South-East Australia, but not abundant. This ant feigns death on being disturbed. It lives in small colonies.

CHALCOPONERA METALLICA, Smith.
Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6, p. 94, 1858.

Two workers from Dunkeld.

One of the most widely distributed ants in Australia, it is also one of the prettiest. The nests of this species usually contain various Myrmecophilous insects.



Ponera sulciceps, n.sp.
Dorsal view of worker.

PONERA SULCICEPS, n.sp.

Worker. Length 2.3—2.8mm.

Brown, mandibles, clypeus and antennae reddish yellow, legs yellow.

Pilosity yellowish; very abundant, short and adpressed.

Semi-opaque. Mandibles shining, with a few scat-

tered fine punctures. Head very finely and densely punctate. Scapes of the antennae microscopically punctate. Pronotum finely and densely punctate, particularly in front. Epinotum more coarsely punctate. Mesonotum smooth, feebly shining. Gaster very finely and densely punctate.

Head longer than broad, broader behind than in front, the sides convex, the occipital border concave, the angles rounded. Mandibles triangular, the terminal border straight, armed with seven teeth, the inner border edentate. Clypeus rounded, and projecting in front at the middle, strongly rounded and raised at the centre above; there is a sharp carina behind, but it is hardly indicated in front. Frontal carinae closely approximated, hardly diverging behind; there is a well defined groove between the carinae, extending from the anterior edge to a little beyond the centre of the head. Eyes very small, placed on the lateral border in front, about three times their diameter from the base of the mandibles. Antennae short and thick; scapes barely reaching the occipital border; first joint of the funiculus longer than the three following joints together, all the joints from the second to the tenth slightly broader than long, the apical joint longer than broad and pointed. Thorax twice as long as broad through the pronotum, the latter convex in front and on the sides, very feebly rounded above. Mesonotum oval, broader than long, slightly convex and rounded above. Epinotum constricted at the base, the epinotal declivity abrupt. Node fully twice as broad as long, the anterior face slightly convex, the posterior face flat; in profile, it is fully three times higher than long, with a broad tooth-like projection in front below. Postpetiole one and three quarter times broader than long, convex in front and on the sides. First segment of the gaster broader than long, as broad in front as behind, the sides convex. Legs long and slender.

Hab.—Mt. Arapiles; four workers. Five examples of this species were taken at Bacchus Marsh in 1922 by Mr. F. E. Wilson. Type in National Museum.

Sub-family MYRMICINAE.

PODOMYRMA ELONGATA, Forel.

Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 39, p. 428, 1895.

A single worker from the Grampians.

The ants of this genus are tree-ants. They are destructive to forest trees, as they construct their nests in the trunk and branches.

PHEIDOLE, ? sp.

Three minor workers from Clear Lake district. They cannot be identified without the major workers, or soldiers.

MERANOPLUS FROGGATTI, Forel.

Bull. Soc. Vaud. 49, p. 183, 1913.

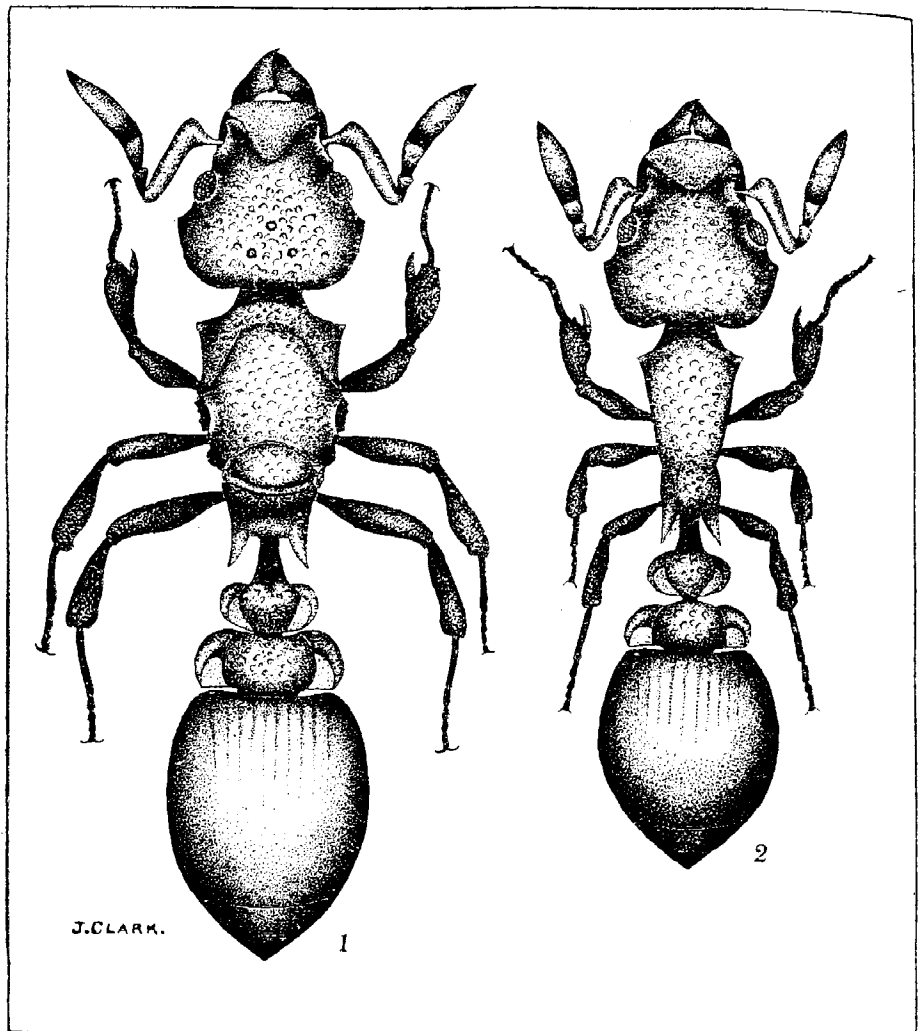
A small colony from Victoria Range.

A harvesting ant which appears to be confined to the Mallee.

MERANOPLUS HIRSUTUS, Mayr.

Jour. Mus. Godeffroy 12, p. 112. 1876.

A single worker from Mt. Arapiles.

*Epitritus Elliotti*, n.sp.

1. Dorsal view of female.

2. Dorsal view of worker.

EPITRITUS ELLIOTTI, n.sp. (Pl. Figs. 1-2).

Worker. Length, 2.2mm.

Reddish yellow. Metanotum and both nodes brownish, a brownish patch on the clypeus and vertex, the first segment of the gaster has a large brownish patch

near the middle, with two small spots between the patch and the posterior margin, on each side of the segment a brown mark extends from the base to the apical third, the posterior margin also is brownish; antennae, tarsi and the membranous appendages of the nodes yellowish.

Pubescence yellow, very short and adpressed, noticeable only on the antennae and legs.

Shining. Head, thorax and nodes somewhat coarsely but superficially reticulate-rugose; mandibles, scapes of the antennae and the legs microscopically reticulate. First segment of the gaster longitudinally striate at the base, the striae not extending to the middle of the segment.

Head, excluding the mandibles, as long as broad, broadest just behind the eyes, where it is twice as broad as on the front of the clypeus; the occipital border concave, the posterior angles strongly rounded to the posterior third of the head, forming a sharp angle just behind the eyes; from this angle the sides are rapidly narrowed to the front. Mandibles elongate triangular, terminating in a rather long sharp tooth; the inner border carries only one tooth, near the apex, this is similar in size and shape to the apical tooth. Clypeus broadly rounded in front, twice as broad as long, a well defined suture separating it from the front. Eyes large, placed almost at the middle of the sides of the head. No ocelli. Antennae short and robust, four jointed; scapes, near the base, about one-third as broad as long; club of the funiculus two jointed, the apical joint much longer than the two preceding joints together. Thorax barely twice as long as broad through the pronotum, much broader through the pronotum than through the epinotum. Pronotum convex in front, the sides straight, the anterior angles sharp, but hardly tooth-like; all the borders submarginate. There is no trace of a suture between the pronotum and mesonotum; there is, however, an indication of a suture between the mesonotum and the epinotum, also a slight constriction on the sides; the epinotum is armed with two long semi-translucent spines, these are as long as the space between them at their base, they are directed backwards, almost parallel; in profile almost horizontal with a translucent membrane extending from the apex of the spines to the base of the epinotal declivity; the declivity is short and abrupt, the boundary between the latter and the dorsum is rounded. First

node as long as broad, broader in front than behind, the anterior border and sides convex; at each side in front there is a strong spine curved backwards, this spine is attached to the node on its full length by a translucent membrane; in profile the node is higher than long, with the anterior face and the dorsum flat, the angle between the two is rounded. Postpetiole broader than long, convex in front and on the sides, with a spine on each side in front, much longer and stronger than those on the node, the spines attached to the postpetiole by a translucent membrane, similar to that on the node. First segment of the gaster large, as long as broad, and as broad in front as behind; the apical segments small. Legs short and stout.

Female. Length, 3mm. (Dealated).

Closely resembles the worker, differing only in its larger size, possessing ocelli and having the wing sclerites developed. The wings are missing in the present specimen.

Hab.—Mt. Arapiles.

Types in the National Museum.

Described from two workers and one female, one of the workers slightly damaged. At the request of the committee, this fine species has been dedicated to Mr. R. D. Elliott, Acting Chairman of the National Museum Committee.

This is the first record of this genus from Australia.

Sub-family DOLICHODERINAE.

IRIDOMYRMEX RUFONIGER, Lowne.

The Entomologist, Lond. 2, p. 279, 1865.

Four workers from Victoria Range.

Widely distributed throughout Australia. It is a serious house pest in many districts.

Sub-family FORMICINAE.

ACANTHOLEPIS, sp.

A single dealated female from Mt. Arapiles. This cannot be identified without workers.

CAMPONOTUS (MYRMOPHYMA) CLARIPES, Mayr.

Jour. Mus. Godeffroy 12, p. 64, 1876.

Ten workers from Mt. Arapiles.

A common and widely distributed species. In the tube with this ant was found a small ant-nest cricket.