

A NEW SPECIES OF PONERA AND OTHER RECORDS OF ANTS  
FROM THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS \*

By

7c

WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

In a previous paper <sup>1</sup> on a collection of ants taken by the Pacific Entomological Survey in the Marquesas Islands I reported upon 28 different forms, 13 of which had not been recorded hitherto from the Marquesas or the Society Islands.<sup>2</sup> Since then I have received from the Entomological Survey further collections including what I take to be a new species of *Ponera* and two other species of ant not previously recorded from the Marquesas. I am including with these further records of distribution of some of the commoner forms throughout the Marquesas.

FAMILY FORMICIDAE

SUBFAMILY PONERINAE

*Ponera perkinsi* Forel.

Mohotani: altitude 1000 feet, in dead *Pisonia* species, ♀ ♀ ♂, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

*Ponera mumfordi*, new species.

Worker

Length, 2 mm. Head of the usual shape, nearly one-fourth longer than broad, distinctly narrowed anteriorly, with slightly convex sides and feebly and broadly excised posterior border. Mandibles with 3 or 4 larger apical, and several minute, irregular basal teeth. Clypeus short, convex and subcarinate in the middle, depressed at the sides, its anterior border indistinctly bisinuate. Frontal carinae forming the usual flattened, approximated lobes; frontal groove very distinct, extending as a straight, uniformly impressed line nearly to the posterior border of the head. Eyes minute, consisting of only 3 or 4 indistinct facets, situated at the anterior fifth of the sides. Antennae stout; scapes not reaching the posterior border; first funicular joint as long as 2-6 together; joints 2-7 small and strongly transverse; remaining joints enlarged to form a club; 8-10 broader than long, the terminal joint nearly twice as long as broad. All the thoracic sutures, including the mesoëpinal well-developed. Pronotum and mesonotum in profile feebly and evenly convex. There is a distinct notch-like impression at the mesoëpinal suture as in *P. mocsaryi* Emery. Mesonotum from above transversely elliptical, slightly more than half as long as the pronotum without the neck. Epinotum in profile forming a

<sup>1</sup> Wheeler, W. M., Ants of the Marquesas Islands: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98, pp. 155-163, 1932.

<sup>2</sup> Wheeler, W. M., Ants from the Society Islands: B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 113, pp. 13-19, 1932.

\* Pacific Entomological Survey Publication 7, article 9. Issued August 30, 1933.

distinct obtuse angle, the base straight and horizontal, the declivity of the same length, sloping and very slightly concave below. Petiole from above transversely elliptical, somewhat broader than the epinotum, in profile twice as high as long and as high as the epinotum; the scale distinctly narrower above than below, with flattened anterior and posterior surfaces and horizontal dorsal surface; ventral surface of petiole with a prominent, laterally compressed projection which is semicircularly rounded anteriorly. Postpetiole rather distinctly marked off from the first gastric segment, trapezoidal, broader than long, sharply and rectangularly truncated anteriorly, with a minute, acute, anteroventral tooth. First gastric segment of the same length as the postpetiole but broader.

Shining; antennae and dorsal surface of head somewhat less so than the remainder of the body; mandibles very smooth and shining, with minute, sparse, piligerous punctures. Head, clypeus, and scapes finely, densely and distinctly, remainder of body and appendages more indistinctly and superficially punctate.

Hairs and pubescence white, the former few and sparse, visible only on the mandibles, clypeus, and tip of gaster; frontal carinae abundantly ciliate. Body and appendages covered with rather dense, slightly oblique pubescence, so that the surface has a pruinose appearance.

Brownish yellow; mandibles, antennae, and legs slightly paler yellow; dorsal surface of head, pronotum and mesonotum and median portions of gastric segments brown.

Uapou: Kohepu [Tekohepu] summit, altitude 3000 feet, November 30, 1931, 5 specimens, LeBronnec.

This species resembles the Papuan *P. mocsaryi* Emery in the distinct mesoëpinotal impression, but it is smaller, the eyes consist of fewer facets, and the antennal clubs are much stouter. In this character and in size it is more like *P. pallidula* Emery, though obviously distinct.

#### SUBFAMILY MYRMICINAE

##### *Pheidole megacephala* (Fabricius).

Hivaoa: Kakahopuanui, Kaava Ridge, altitude 2600-2800 feet, 2 ♀ ♂, LeBronnec; Kaava Ridge, altitude 2800-2820 feet, 2 ♀ ♂, LeBronnec; Anatuakina, altitude 1525 feet, 2, Mumford and Adamson; Tenatinaei, Feani Ridge, altitude 3990 feet, ♀, LeBronnec; Feani Crest, altitude 3900 feet, 2 ♀, LeBronnec; Avaova Valley, altitude 1350 feet, ♀ ♀, LeBronnec; Mount Temetiu, altitude 3900-4160 feet, 2 ♀, LeBronnec.

Nukuhiva: Vaiotekea, altitude 2100 feet, 2 ♀ ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Muake, north side, altitude 2500-3000 feet, 2 ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Tapuaooa Hill, altitude 2600-3500 feet, 2 ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Ooumu, altitude 3000 feet, 2 ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Vaihakameama, altitude 2600 feet, 2, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Uapou: Vaihakaatiki, Hakahetau Valley, altitude 2500 feet, 2 ♀ ♀, LeBronnec; Kohepu [Tekohepu], summit, altitude 3000 feet, 2 ♀, LeBronnec; Hakahetau Valley, ♀, Adamson; Koputukea, Hakahetau Valley, 2 ♀, Le-

Bronnec; Kohepu [Tekohepu], summit, altitude 3300 feet, ♀, LeBronnec; Vaikokoo, Paaumea Valley, altitude 1850 feet, ♀ ♀ ♂, LeBronnec.

Eiao: altitude 1600 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

**Pheidole oceanica** Mayr subspecies **nigriscapa** Santschi variety **tahitiana** Santschi.

A single soldier from Atuona, Hivaoa (A. M. Adamson), belongs to this variety, which has not been previously recorded from the Marquesas.

**Monomorium floricola** (Jerdon.)

Uahuka: Tauheeputa, altitude 1770 feet, ♀, on *Sida* species.

Eiao: altitude 1700 feet, ♀, on *Premna tahitensis*.

Hatutu [Hatutaa]: altitude 15 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

This ant has not been previously recorded from the Marquesas.

**Cardiocondyla nuda** Mayr subspecies **neris** Wheeler.

Uahuka: Matukuoha [Matuukuoha] Pass, altitude 1550 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Haavei Valley, altitude 250 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Tahoahitikau, altitude 780 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Tauheeputa, altitude 1770 feet, ♀, on *Sida* species, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Eiao: altitude 1700 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

**Tetramorium guineense** (Fabricius).

Uahuka: Hanahoua Valley, altitude 30 feet, ♀, on *Rhynchosia minima*, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Eiao: altitude 800-1700 feet, ♀ ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Hatutu [Hatutaa]: altitude 1400 feet, ♀ ♀ ♂, in *Pisonia* species, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

**Tetramorium simillimum** (F. Smith).

Uahuka: Hitikau, altitude 2900 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Hanahoua, altitude 750 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Eiao: altitude 1600 feet, ♀ ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

#### SUBFAMILY DOLICHODERINAE

**Tapinoma (Micromyrma) melanocephalum** (Fabricius) variety **australe** Santschi.

Uahuka: Hanahoua Valley, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Eiao: altitude 1600 and 1700 feet, ♀ ♀, in *Thespesia populnea*, ♀ in *Premna tahitensis*, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

**Technomyrmex albipes** (F. Smith).

Hivaoa: Kakahopuanui, altitude 2600 feet, ♀ ♂, on *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, LeBronnec.

Uahuka: Penau Ridge, altitude 2000 feet, ♀ ♂, at light and ♂ on *Weinmannia* species, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Hitikau Ridge, altitude 2500 feet, ♂, in sweepings, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Teivipuhipuhi, Vaikivi Valley, altitude 1250 feet, ♂ on *Metrosideros collina*, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Hane Valley, altitude 150 feet, at light, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

#### SUBFAMILY FORMICINAE

##### **Anoplolepis longipes** (Jerdon).

Tahuata: Hanamiai Valley, altitude 500 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Nukuhiva: Taiohae, sea level, at light, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Mohotani: altitude 700 feet, ♀ ♀, in *Pandanus* species, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Uahuka: Hanahoua Valley, altitude 750 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Vaikivi Valley, altitude 1300 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Hana-tekeo, Hane Valley, altitude 750 feet, ♀, LeBronnec; Vaitiake, altitude 1000 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Eiao: altitude 1400-1700 feet, ♀ ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Plateau above Vaituha, altitude 1150 feet, ♀, Adamson.

##### **Paratrechina (Nylanderia) vaga** (Forel) variety **crassipilis** Santschi.

Uahuka: Penau Ridge, altitude 2010 feet, ♀, on *Weinmannia* species, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Uapou: Teavaituhai, Hakahetau Valley, altitude 3000 feet, ♀, LeBronnec.

##### **Paratrechina (Nylanderia) bourbonica** (Forel) subspecies **bengalensis** (Forel).

Tahuata: Vaitahu, seashore, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.

Uahuka: Hanahoua Valley, altitude 6 feet, ♀, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa; Hane Valley, altitude 30 feet, ♀, at light, LeBronnec and H. Tauraa.