

SOME ANTS OF THE SUBGENUS *PLANIMYRMA* VIEHMAYER OF THE
GENUS *APHAENOGASTER* MAYR.

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Emery [Genera Insectorum, 174A: 56 (1921)] separates the subgenera *Planimyрма* Viehmayer (1914) and *Deromyrma* Forel (1913) from the other three subgenera of *Aphaenogaster* Mayr (1853) as follows:—

‘Tous les sexes: Tête prolongée en col; aile antérieure à une seule cubitale fermée’; and from each other:—

‘Pronotum inerme chez les ouvrières et les femelles; antennes des mâles de 13 articles; espèces asiatiques, américaines et malgaches *Deromyrma*.

‘Pronotum armé ou inerme chez les ouvrières et les femelles; antennes des mâles de 12 articles; espèces de la Nouvelle Guinée *Planimyрма*.’

A new genus might be erected for these two subgenera, but more material is wanted, especially in the latter, of which only three species are known, and the males of only two of them.

In the meantime we now describe a new variety, a new subspecies and a male, all from New Guinea.

|| *Aphaenogaster (Planimyрма) dromedarius* Emery
var. **nigra** var. n.

♂. Jet black, very shining, the mandibles, funiculi of antennae and tarsi ferrugineous.

This variety only differs from the typical form and the var. *fusca* Emery in its jet black colour, the neck being very slightly but distinctly shorter, and the bristles on the whole body a little shorter and stouter. Long: 8.7 mm.

Described from nine workers, Mt. Nomo, 600-1,500 ft., six workers, Njau Limon, 300 ft., Dutch New Guinea, taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman on trees, November, 1936. Type in B.M. Coll.

|| *Aphaenogaster (Planimyрма) quadrispina* Emery
subsp. **wheeleri** n.

♂. Whole body shining, especially the head, and clothed with long, scattered, erect, pale yellow hairs. Colour very variable. Head and neck jet black, but occasionally lighter or darker brown; clypeus and mandibles lighter or darker red; sometimes the clypeus is black; masticatory border and teeth black. Scapes of antennae black, or dark brown, funiculi and insertion of the antennae red. Thorax shining black, but sometimes brown; spines black, brown, or sometimes yellow in the middle; coxae bright light yellow, or dirty yellowish-brown; legs darker or lighter yellowish-brown; tarsi and spurs lighter. Petiole and post-petiole dark brown, or lighter yellowish-brown; gaster light yellow at base and along third segment, rest black or brown, or all dark brown, or nearly black.

Head chiefly smooth; *mandibles* finely longitudinally striate; *clypeus* transversely striate; *antennal foveae* with circular striae round them. *Thorax*: *pronotum* with strong longitudinal ridges between the spines and at the sides; *spines* long and sharp, extending outwards and slightly downward; *mesonotum* with longitudinal ridges at the sides; *epinotum* with transverse ridges on the dorsal surface, and longitudinal ridges at the sides; the *epinotal spines* are not as long as the pronotal ones, sharp, and bending slightly outwards and downwards, the declivity between the spines is smooth and shining; *petiole*, *post-petiole* and *gaster* chiefly smooth and shining. Long. 8.5 mm.

Described from twelve workers taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman at Kokoda, Papua, 1,200 ft., crawling on tree-trunks. Ten were taken in April, one in August and one in October, 1933.

I have named this insect in honour of the late Professor W. M. Wheeler, who told us it was a new subspecies of *A. (P.) quadrispina* Emery. Type in B.M. Coll.

This new subspecies differs from the typical form in colour, and also in possessing ridges on the whole of the sides of the thorax, instead of only on the metanotum (epinotum?) as given by Emery in his description [Nova Guinea, 9, Zool., 251-2 (1911)] and from *A. (P.) dromedarius* Emery and *A. (P.) lorlai* Emery by its colour, smaller size and shorter neck.

Aphaenogaster (Deromyrma?) dromedarius Emery (?).

♂. Pale brownish-yellow, shining; scapes, femora and tibiae darker, funiculi and tarsi lighter, clothed with long, erect, scattered brown hairs, which are much more abundant on the scapes, femora and tibiae; those on the funiculi being finer, closer and paler.

Head long, narrowed in front and behind, ending in a very long neck; *mandibles* long, triangular, finely longitudinally striate, armed with three teeth at apex, the apical one long and pointed; *clypeus* large, convex, anterior border rounded with a rather pointed lobe at each side; finely longitudinally striate; *frontal area* distinctly defined, smooth and shining; *eyes* very large and convex; *ocelli* large and prominent; *antennae* long, 13-jointed; *scape* very long, equal to the first ten joints of the funiculus taken together; *funiculus* with short first joint, not half as long as the second, two-eleven sub-equal, last joint slightly longer, tapering to a point. *Thorax* about as broad as head; *pronotum* short, unarmed; *mesonotum* globose, projecting forwards over the pronotum in a rounded hump; *scutellum* globose and prominent; *metanotum* narrow; *epinotum* slightly narrowed in centre; *dorsal surface* long, shallowly incurved to the declivity, which is short and round. *Petiole* long, with two blunt projections near base, slightly thickened to apex, bearing a low rounded node; *post-petiole* slightly shorter and broader than petiole and with a higher rounded node; *gaster* pear-shaped, broadest behind middle, first segment very long. *Legs* long, tarsi as long as the tibiae. *Wings*: forewing 5 mm., pale brownish-yellow, *pterostigma* and *veins* darker, one *discoidal cell*, one long *cubital cell*, and one long open *radial cell* present. *Long.* 8.2 mm.

Described from two males taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman at Kakoda, Papua, 1,200 ft., at light, June, 1933.

I am strongly inclined to think that this insect will prove to be the ♂ of *A. (P.) dromedarius* Emery.

In 1911 Emery (l.c., p. 258) described what he took to be the ♂ of his *quadrispina* (in which I believe he was undoubtedly correct) with two small spines on the pronotum and two slightly longer ones on the scutum of the mesonotum. He did not, however, state how many joints there were to the antennae.

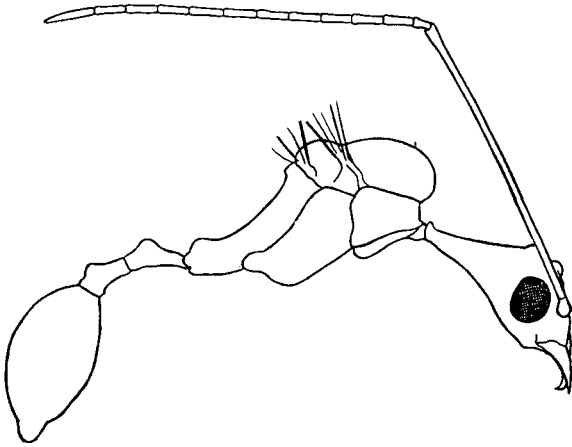
In 1914 Viehmeyer described the ♂ of *A. (P.) lorlai* Emery with two spines to the pronotum, two very small spines to the praescutum, and with twelve-jointed antennae, and on this account he founded the subgenus *Planimyrra* [Zool. Jahrb., 37: 604, 605 (1914)].

Should our insect be the ♂ of *dromedarius* Emery, that species will have to be placed in the subgenus *Deromyrma* Forel, with the pronotum unarmed in the ♀ and ♂, and the antennae thirteen-jointed in the latter.

Besides the insects described in this paper Miss Cheesman also took *dromedarius* Emery (typical workers) and *lorlai* Emery ♀♀ in Papua.

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SOME ANTS OF THE SUBGENUS *PLANIMYRMA* VIEHMEYER OF THE
GENUS *APHAENOGASTER* MAYR : SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE.



Profile of ♂ of *Aphaenogaster* (*Deromyrma*?) *dromedarius* Emery?
(see page 32).