

The rare Fijian ant *Myrmecina* (= *Archaeomyrmex*) *cacabau* (Mann) rediscovered (Hymenoptera : Formicidae)

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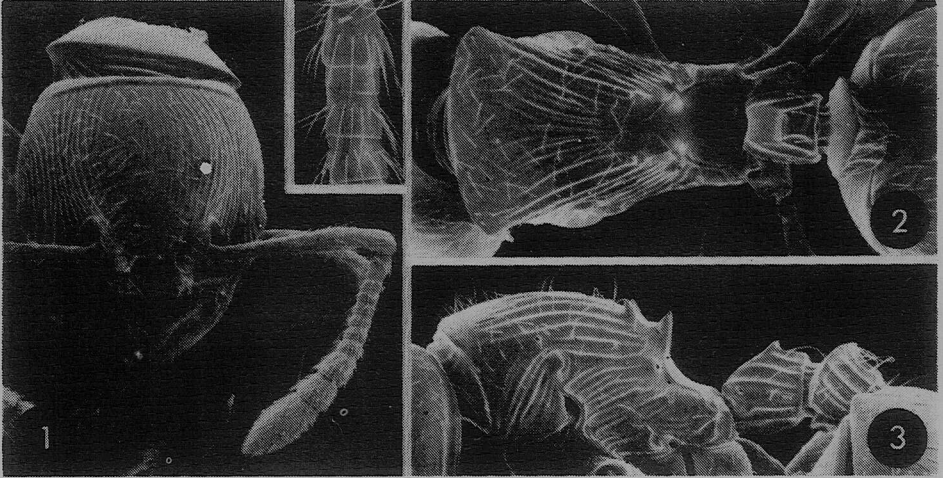
Abstract

The Fijian ant *Myrmecina cacabau* has been rediscovered and described.

Keywords: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Myrmicinae, *Myrmecina cacabau*, Fiji.

The myrmicine ant genus *Archaeomyrmex* and its sole species *A. cacabau* (Figs 1-3) were originally described by W. M. Mann in a new monotypic tribe, Archaeomyrmecini (1929, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool. Harv.* 64, 448-451, Fig. 17a-c, worker. Type-locality: Nadarivatu, Viti Levu, Fiji). Subsequently *A. cacabau* has been an enigma, due to the loss of its unique holotype and the lack of further collections. However, Brown (1971), with reference to the original description and to similar undescribed Melanesian species, synonymised *Archaeomyrmex* with *Myrmecina* Curtis and Archaeomyrmecini with Myrmecinini.

Brown's assignment, and the general accuracy of Mann's description, can now be confirmed following the recent collection of two workers at Nadarivatu by G. Kuschel (17 September 1977, berlesate, rainforest litter and rotten wood, 900 m; specimens in N.Z. Arthropod Collection, DSIR, Auckland, and Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra). Their dimensions (mm) are: total length *c.* 4.4, 4.3; midline head length 1.01, 0.99; maximum head width behind eyes 1.04, 1.01; scape length 0.82, 0.81; pronotum width 0.83, 0.85; Weber's length of mesosoma 1.17, 1.16. Palpal formula: *maxillary* 4, *labial* 3 (NZAC specimen dissected). Order of length of maxillary palpomeres: 3, 1, 4, 2; 4 slightly clubbed; 2 obtusely elbowed at base. Labial palpomeres 1 and 3 subequal in length, longer than 2; 3 slightly clubbed. Antennomere III lacking the girdle of hairs present on II and IV-VI (Fig. 1 insert).



Figs 1-3. *Myrmecina cacabau* (Mann), worker, Nadarivatu, Fiji, standard views; Fig. 1 insert, details of antennomeres II-V. See text for dimensions.

REFERENCE

- BROWN, W. L., JR 1971: Characters and synonymies among the genera of ants. Part IV. Some genera of subfamily Myrmicinae (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Breviora* 365: 1-5.