

(MV.J. Calilung, MVJC 021) (UPLB-MNH).

Distribution. Philippines (Mindanao).

Biological Notes. This ant is associated with the aphid, *Toxoptera odinae* (van der Goot). It was found alone underneath leaves of *Arundo donax* Linn. (Poaceae). It solicits honeydew from the aphid by brushing with its antennae the posterior end of the aphid's abdomen. When the aphid raises its abdomen, honeydew is excreted.

2. *Myrmicaria aphidicola*, n. sp.

Figure 2

Description. Body 5-6 mm long, reddish brown to brown, with numerous long and coarse setae.

Head longer than broad, subquadrangular and roughly sculptured; mandibles large, short and triangular, with linear sculpturing; apical margin behind first tooth with four exposed unequal and loosely spaced denticles; antennae 7-segmented, club indistinct, antennal sockets close to basal margin of clypeus, antennal scrobes absent; frontal carinae widely separated; clypeus convex, triangular at basal margin, lined with long setae; eyes large, as long as first funicular segment, elevated.

Pronotum and mesonotum separated by very weak promesonotal suture, suboctagonal, elevated but flat dorsally, sharply angled laterally and roughly sculptured; mesonotum bluntly bituberculate, posterior portion more or less vertical; metanotal groove deeply impressed; propodeum lower than pronotum and mesonotum, with a pair of spines or bispinose positioned posteriorly, sharply angled laterally; legs long and slender with numerous long, erect setae; forelegs with large tibial spur fringed with hairs on inner margin; fore tarsal segments with fringed hairs ventrally or on inner margin.

Petiole and post petiole rounded and elevated with numerous erect and long setae; petiole with long anterior peduncle; gaster elongate-oval with numerous long and short setae; gastral segments one and two large and subequal, almost covering the whole gaster; only three gastral segments visible when viewed dorsally; third gastral segment four times smaller than segment one or segment two; sting visible, long and somewhat flattened from side to side.

Remarks. This species differs from *brunnea* in having all the gastral segments uniformly brown while *brunnea* has the basal margin of the five terminal segments dark brown. They differ also in size wherein according to Saunders' original description (1841), this ant is 6/10 to 8/10 inch, which is much bigger than *aphidicola*. Saunders' descriptions were all based on coloration and very short description. Bolton (1973) reported that the *Myrmicaria* are general predators and scavengers, but this species is found associated with aphids. However, they are not totally dependent on the honeydew secreted by the aphid since small pieces of grasshoppers and beetles were also found inside the nest.

Material Examined. HOLOTYPE: Worker, MINDANAO: North Cotabato: Kidapawan: Agco, Mt. Apo, on leaf sheath of *Phragmites* sp., 06.v 1988 (MV.J. Calilung, MVJC 026) (UPLB-MNH). PARATYPES: 8 workers, same data as holotype (UPLB-MNH).

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