

Biological Notes. These ants build their nest on the leaf sheath of *Phragmites* sp. (Poaceae) and inside the nest are aphids, *Toxoptera odinae* (van der Goot). They protect these aphids by building a nest over them and the ants benefit from the honeydew provided by the aphids. These ants do not totally depend on the honeydew secreted by these aphids because nests were seen with dead insects like small grasshoppers and beetles. According to Bolton (1973), these ants made nests directly into the earth, often with long sunken runways visible on the surface of the ground.

I observed that their nests are not only made of soil but also mixed with pieces of dried plant parts like stems and leaves. There are some traces of soil particles going up to the leaf sheath where the nest is built.

3. *Strumigenys godeffroyi geococci*, n. subsp.

Figure 3

Description. Body 2-2.5 mm long, light brown to brown. Head large, heart-shaped with more or less U-shaped depression on vertex, not abruptly indented at eyes; with clavate hairs laterally from vertex to clypeus; mandibles elongate, linear, with one preapical tooth aside from forked teeth; eyes large situated at lateroventral side of head; antennae 6-segmented with second and third funicular segments so reduced that antennae appear 5-segmented; lower lateral sides of pedicel with several lined clavate hairs; antennal scrobes present.

Alitrunk elongate, linear with pronotum rounded and slightly elevated, with abundant long subreclinate or arching fine hairs giving a wooly appearance on dorsum; mesonotum and propodeum narrow; promesonotal suture and mesopropodeal suture obscure; propodeum bearing spongiform lamellae posteriorly; legs short, robust with several reclinate hairs; forelegs with large tibial spur; tibia as long as first tarsal segment.

Petiole elongate, slightly elevated posteriorly; postpetiole short and rounded; petiole and postpetiole covered with spongiform appendage; gaster brown, ovate, bends ventrally at rest, first segment just posterior to postpetiolar spongiform appendage bearing dense fringe of long, reclinate, posteriorly directed hairs.

Remarks. This subspecies is morphologically intermediate between *godeffroyi* and *lewisi*. It differs from *godeffroyi* by the presence of spongiform lamellae on the rear face of propodeum and is similar by the presence of numerous long, subreclinate, fine hairs on dorsum of mesosoma. On the other hand, this differs from *lewisi* by the presence of numerous, long, subreclinate, fine hairs and similar by the presence of spongiform lamellae.

Etymology. The subspecies is named after the mealybug genus *Geococcus* which is associated with this ant.

Material Examined. HOLOTYPE: Worker. LUZON: Laguna: Mt. Makiling, on roots of *Beaucarnea recurvata* (Lem.) Hemsl., 23 iv. 1988 (MV. J. Calilung, MVJC 099) (UPLB-MNH).

Distribution. Philippines (Luzon).