

## REDESCRIPTION OF *LEPISIOTA MODESTA* FOREL (HYMENOPTERA : FORMICIDAE : FORMICINAE)

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### ABSTRACT

*Lepisiota modesta* Forel is described and illustrated.

**Key words** : Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Formicinae, *Lepisiota modesta*.

### Introduction

*Lepisiota modesta* was discovered by Forel (1894) from Mussoorie (Uttaranchal), India. But instead of providing full description of this species, Forel diagnosed it in key only on the basis of few characters. Bingham (1903) could not record this species and cited Forel's diagnosis in his *Fauna of British India*.

Now the species has been recollected from the same locality, after almost a hundred years, and is fully described and illustrated in this paper.

### *Lepisiota modesta* Forel

*J. Bombay nat. hist. soc.*, 8 : 412. 1894

*Worker* (Figs. 1 & 2) : Length : 2.66 mm; Head length : 0.66mm; Head width: 0.43mm; Scape length : 0.66mm; scape index : 153.5; eye diameter : 0.08mm; pronotal width : 0.41mm; alitrunk length : 0.83mm; cephalic index : 65.15.

*Head* (Fig. 1) : Longer than broad, slightly broader posteriorly than in front, posterior

margin transverse; mandibles with masticatory margin oblique, dentate; antennae 11 jointed; antennal scrobes absent; scape passing beyond the top of head by 1/4th of its length; eyes large, more frontal and placed slightly above midline of head; frontal carinae short, wide apart; shallow line present between carinae; antennal sockets confluent with posterior clypeal margin; clypeus large, convex in middle with broadly rounded anterior margin; head smooth and shining, covered with few erect hair on posterior margin and frontal part, more dense on anterior margin of clypeus; scape and flagellum with scattered pubescence with out erect hair.

*Alitrunk and Petiole* (Fig. 2) : Pronotum broad and convex, constricted posteriorly; mesonotum constricted, less broader as compared to pronotum, its posterior margin transversally raised; metanotal groove deep and broad as compared to promesonotal suture; propodeum much higher in profile as compared to mesonotum, furnished with two broad thick spines; two short spines along its declivity; petiole with two acute