

Sculpture. Anterior two thirds of the head dorsum covered with thin, longitudinal rugosities and sparse piligerous punctures, the rugosities slightly divergent and resembling irregular reticulation behind the frontal lobes and posterior border of the eyes. Posterior third of the head dorsum covered by variably impressed small reticulation, sometimes the reticulation sparse and resembling piligerous punctures mixed with very thin, sparse rugosities. Ventral face of the head smooth with very sparse, piligerous punctures on the genae. Mesosoma with dense, minute reticulation and piligerous foveae, the foveae sparse on the metapleurae and declivous face of the propodeum, rare on the mesopleurae. Center of the propodeum with very thin, short, transversal rugosities. Metapleurae with additional very thin, longitudinal rugosities. Declivous face of the propodeum with thin, transversal rugosities. Anterior half of the propleurae with additional, thin, longitudinal rugosities. Petiole with sparser and smaller piligerous punctures than on the mesosoma. Gastral tergites with anastomosing canaliculation and with very sparse piligerous foveae, the canaliculation denser on their sides. Legs minutely punctate.

Pilosity. Head, mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole with sparse subdecumbent or decumbent, truncate long hairs. Antennae and legs with appressed short hairs. Funicular joints, neck and antennal fossae with very short, appressed hairs. Clypeus dorsally with two pairs of hairs close to the frontal lobes, the lower external pair longer.

Colour. Head, mesosoma, petiole and gaster black. Femora dark brown-black. Antennae, frontal lobes, mandibles and legs brown.

Measurements in mm and indices: TL 4.87–5.47; HL 0.85–0.95; HW1 1.14–1.30; HW2 1.03–1.15; EL 0.24–0.28; SL 0.75–0.87; ML 1.20–1.36; WL 1.36–1.48; PeL 0.51–0.55; PeW 0.64–0.73; HFeL 0.92–1.04; HTiL 0.81–0.92; HBaL 0.70–0.77; CI1 133.7–136.8; CI2 120.0–122.8; SI 88.2–91.6; MI 141.2–143.5.

Material examined. CUBA: Santiago Prov., Gran Piedra, Met. Radar, 6.XII.1995, 1100 m elfin, for. litter, 2 workers (holotype and paratype), 95-75 S. Peck [MCZC]; Santiago Prov., Gran Piedra, Isabelica, 14.XII.1995, 1100 m elfin, for. litter, 2 workers, 95-95, S. Peck [MCZC]; Santiago Prov., 6 km NE Siboney, Rio Juragua, 150 m, 16.XII.1995, log & leaf litter, 1 worker, 95-96, S. Peck [MCZC]; Santiago Prov., 10 km NE Caney, Arroyo Grovert, 300 m, 9-12.XII.1995, leaf and log litter, 1 worker, 95-93, S. Peck [MCZC].

T. mandibularis sp. n. appears to be the sister species of *bariay*. Both, *bariay* and *mandibularis* sp. n. appear to be members of the *cochlearis* group as defined by Kempf (1975). This group previously containing only one species, *cochlearis*, possesses the following combination of characters: frons and vertex with posteriorly diverging rugulae and punctures, gular surface smooth and shining, thorax and petiole with punctures, mesonotum and propodeum continuous, without transversal notch, angle between basal and declivous propodeal faces obtuse, petiole cubiform, disc of clypeus without close-set setae. *T. bariay*, *T. mandibularis* sp. n., *T. nageli* sp. n., and *T. cochlearis* share all these characters. *T. mandibularis* sp. n. and *bariay* differ from *cochlearis* and *nageli* sp. n. by the longer mandibles and scapes. From Tab. 2 one can notice that the indices of *bariay* approach more to those of *mandibularis* sp. n. than to the indices of *nageli* sp. n. and *cochlearis*.

T. mandibularis sp. n. and *T. bariay* share with the members of the *ferox* group and with the subgroup 2 as defined by Kempf (1975) the head much broader than long and the mandibles at rest largely surpassing the genae laterally. *T. mandibularis* sp. n. and *T. bariay* differ from the species of this subgroup 2 mainly by the head and mesosoma strongly sculptured instead of smooth and by the obtuse angle between the basal and declivous propodeal faces.