

salmost point of the node. Petiole length (PL): Length of the petiole from the anterior flanges to the posteriormost point of the petiole. Lateral Petiole Index (LPI): $(PH / PL) \times 100$. Dorsal Petiole Width (DPW): Maximum width of the petiole, measured in dorsal view. Dorsal Petiole Index (DPI): $(DPW / PL) \times 100$.

DESCRIPTION

Genus *Leptogenys* Roger, 1861

Leptogenys khammouanensis sp. nov.

(Fig. 1: a–d)

Description of Holotype (worker). TL 7.6, HL 1.54, HW 1.01, CI 65, SL 1.99, SI 197, EL 0.09, PrW 0.71, ML 2.55, PH 0.46, PL 0.77, LPI 59, DPW 0.32, DPI 0.40

Head elongate, quite narrow, slightly broadened anteriorly, broadest across the eyes, the sides feebly convex. Occipital margin passing to lateral margin by a regular curve. A low nuchal carina present. Eyes small, oval, composed of 15–20 ommatidia. Maximum diameter of eye 0.093 mm, about $0.09 \times HW$, that is less than the maximum width of the scapes (0.127 mm). Eyes well in front of the middle of head sides, with their posterior borders situated on the same level than the posterior end of the frontal carinae in full face view. Eyes position frontal, not overlapping the outlines of head sides in full-face view. Circumocular groove strongly developed. Mandibles not striated, weakly shining, with feeble puncturations more numerous near masticatory border. Masticatory margin of mandibles with 14 teeth: the two apical ones well developed and followed by three denticles, one tooth and a series of 8 small teeth and denticles. Basal margin of mandibles close to the basal tooth of the apical margin with small crenulations. Clypeus triangular, projecting anteriorly as a distinct lobe closing tightly against the basal border of the mandibles, and with its foremost part broadly truncated. A wide longitudinal carina present on the median portion of clypeus. Anterior border of clypeus bidentate due to two massive enlarged central setae and laterally a row of normal and straight setae, all much shorter than other cephalic setae. Antennal scapes extremely long surpassing the occipital margin by almost half their length, with numerous erect to subdecumbent hairs, most of them being half the scape width. Funicular segments elongate: length of segments 1–3 ca 0.254, 0.422, 0.355 respectively (the partly visible condylar bulb of the first antennal segment is excluded from this measurement). Funicular segment 11: length 0.232; width 0.131.

Mesosoma elongate. Pronotum widest behind the middle, narrower in front than behind. Mesonotum markedly elongate (dorsal length of mesonotum 0.659 mm, taken at the level of the anterior border of metathoracic spiracles) and approximately of the same length than pronotum length (collare excluded) in dorsal view. Mesosoma shallowly depressed between mesonotum and propodeal dorsum but without any trace of the transverse metanotal suture. A transverse carina present on the posterior end of the declivitous face of propodeum surrounding insertion of petiolar peduncle. A low longitudinal median carina is present on the

mesosternum and is crossed by small wrinkles. Legs extremely long, with metafemur length (2.10 mm) exceeding gaster length.

Node of the petiole in dorsal view much longer than broad. Anterior part of the node with a carina separating it from the true anterior peduncle which is indeed very short. Dorsal outline of the anterior part of the node concave in lateral view. The node is widening progressively backward, giving to the anterior part of the node an aspect of false peduncle.

Gaster constricted between its first and second segment. Sting relatively short.

All body sculpture smooth. Body color light orange-yellow with small brown spots regularly spaced at the basis of body setae. Callow individuals yellow. Body with a dense pilosity especially on head, gaster and coxae, and with the longest hairs situated on clypeus, ventral surface of the head capsule and procoxae.

Gyne and male unknown.

Etymology. From “Khammouan”, a province of Laos with beautiful calcareous landscapes, uncountable caves and subterranean rivers.

Type material. Holotype worker, Laos: Tham (= cave) Nam Non (18.0270° N, 104.6883° E, coordinates from Brouquisse, 1999), alt. 185 m, several km inside the cave, hand collecting, 15.II.1999, (LAO-070), J. Lordon and J.F. Vacqué.

Paratypes workers: 2 workers, same data; collected with holotype.

Other material: 4 workers, Laos: Ban Nakok: Tham Thê cave (17.9964° N, 104.4482° E, coordinates from Brouquisse, 1999), 11.II.1998, (LAO-016), collected at about 500 m from cave mouth, hand collecting, L. Deharveng and A. Bedos.

Standard measurements: workers. TL 7.0–7.8, HL 1.54–1.65, HW 0.98–1.05 CI 64–65, SL 1.94–2.12, SI 197–201, EL 0.09, PrW 0.66–0.74, ML 2.42–2.64, PH 0.45–0.50, PL 0.76–0.84, LPI 58–59, DPW 0.29–0.32, DPI 0.38–0.40

One worker from the type locality possesses on the right side an abnormal eye of circular shape reduced to a single large ommatidia of 0.041 mm diameter.

The holotype of the new species is deposited in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris (MNHN) and the paratypes in the author's collection.

Remarks. The general habitus of *Leptogenys khammouanensis* with very elongate head, mesosoma, petiole, antennae and legs is very similar to that of *Leptogenys assamensis* Forel, 1900, a species that seems to be known only from the type series collected by Long in the Garó hills in Assam (E. India), and to *Leptogenys ergatogyna* Wheeler, 1922, a forest species known from Zaire, Uganda and Cameroun and which presents few affinities to other African species (Bolton, 1975). However, *Leptogenys assamensis* and *Lep-*