

Depositories

BMNH: The Natural History Museum, London, UK;

MSNM: Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, Italy;

MZUF: Museo Zoologico “La Specola”, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy.

Measurements and indices

TL, HL, HW, CI, ML, MI, SL, SI, PW, and AL are as defined by Bolton (2000).

Strumigenys alessandrae n. sp. (Figs. 1-3)

Holotype worker. TL 3.6, HL 0.96, HW 0.69, CI 72, ML 0.51, MI 53, SL 0.61, SI 88, PW 0.40, AL 0.94

A relatively large and slender species.

Head (Fig. 2) dorsally with a longitudinal shallow median groove. Mandibles slightly bowed outward. Left mandible without any preapical tooth; right mandible with one preapical tooth placed just above the apicodorsal one (Figs. 2, 3), so that both mandibular shafts look unarmed in full-face view. Apical fork of the right mandible with a very minute vestigial intercalary denticle close to the base of the apicoventral tooth; left mandible with a well developed intercalary tooth (Fig. 3). Apicodorsal tooth of both mandibles larger than apicoventral one. In full face view anterior clypeal margin almost straight, occiput deeply notched in the middle. Postoral and preocular notches deeply incised, the former narrow and deep in profile and with a narrow rim. The preocular groove becomes wide and shallow ventrally; then it bends backward at a right angle and fades away while running along the median suture. Scape slender and simple. Antennal scrobe relatively well developed, its dorsal margin slightly sinuate and weakly edged.

Alitrunk humped in profile: pronotum and anterior mesonotum convex and overhanging the nearly straight posterior mesonotum and propodeum; mesonotum margined laterally. Propodeal teeth small; their ventral edges run downward as a narrow lamella along each side of the propodeal declivity.

Petiole with a long peduncle, ventrally a very thin longitudinal crest runs along the entire length of the petiolar sternite. Node simply domed in profile. Petiolar spongiform appendage forming a thin collar around the posterior face of the node. Postpetiole wider than long and about twice as wide as the petiole. Postpetiolar spongiform appendage more developed posteriorly, especially below where it forms two longitudinal crests.

Gaster basally with an anterior tergal spongiform crest fitting the postpetiolar one.

Sculpture. Head, alitrunk, petiole and postpetiole mostly matt and finely reticulate-punctate all over; mesopleuron smooth in the middle; mandibles and postoral groove smooth. First tergite and sternite basally sculptured, longitudinally finely costulate for about 2/5 of tergal and 1/3 of sternal lengths.

Pilosity. Anterior clypeal margin fringed with moderately long, curved, simple to slightly clavate hairs; head dorsum covered with regularly arranged, anteriorly bent and somewhat appressed, narrowly spoon-shaped hairs. Cephalic dorsum devoid of any erect hair. Leading edge of the scape bearing a series of simple hairs