

hairs on the anterior margin; a pair of similar hairs on the margins of the descending mesonotum and a pair of slightly shorter hairs occur at the promesonotal suture. A sparse decumbent coarse pubescence occurs on the promesonotum. Petiolar node with two pairs of slightly clavate hairs, the posteriormost pair distinctly longer. Postpetiole with 3 pairs of clavate hairs: one pair anteromedial and short and 2 pairs close to the articulation with the gaster, the mid pair longer. Gastral tergites with regularly arranged, scattered, long, standing clavate hairs; sternites and gastral apex with several decumbent to subdecumbent simple hairs. Pubescence quite long and abundant on the appendages only and somewhat raised on the extensor surfaces of femurs and tibiae.

Colour testaceous.

Type locality: ETHIOPIA, Ilubador Region, Buno Bedele: nr. Bedele, (approx. 8°27' N – 36°21' E), 2000 m ca., 29/31.VII.2002 A. Sforzi & L. Bartolozzi *legit*, sifting leaf litter of secondary forest (MZUF).

*Derivatio nominis.* This species is dedicated to Luca Bartolozzi, curator of MZUF and collector of this new ant.

*Comment.* From its mandibular dentition and scape pilosity this new species might look close to *S. londianensis* (Patrizi); yet it is very different from the latter in its much smaller size, alitrunk pilosity (with a pair of hairs between the humeral pair and an additional pair close to the promesonotal suture), its distinctly toothed propodeum and lower MI. The mandibular dentition and pilosity combined make this ant different from any other Afrotropical *Strumigenys*.

#### Update of the key to the Afrotropical *Strumigenys*

Couplets 2 to 5 of Bolton's key (2000: 583) to Afrotropical *Strumigenys* should be modified as follows in order to include both new species (original couplets' numbers are in brackets; couplets 2 and 5 are rewritten):

- 2 Left mandible without preapical teeth.....***S. alessandrae* n. sp.**  
 - Left mandible with 1-2 preapical teeth .....3 [2]
- 3 [2] Left mandible with 1 preapical tooth.....4 [3]  
 - Left mandible with 2 preapical teeth.....8 [6]
- 4 [3] Leading edge of scape with 2-4 hairs that are curved toward the base .....**5**  
 - Leading edge of scape with all hairs curved or inclined toward the apex of the scape.....6 [4]
- 5** Size larger (TL 3.5-4.2). Pronotal humeral hair straight, stiff and stout, reniform to feebly clavate. Propodeum unarmed.....*S. londianensis*  
 - Size smaller (TL 2.4). Pronotal humeral hair fine and flagellate.  
 Propodeum distinctly toothed .....***S. bartolozzii* n. sp.**