

edited (Adobe PhotoShop 7.0®) to enhance some brightness and contrast details.

Geographic coordinates were obtained from ENCARTA World Atlas® and the distribution map generated by ArcView 3.2 GIS®.

RESULTS

Basicros Schulz, 1906

Meranoplus (in part) Fr. Smith 1858:195.

Ceratobasis Fr. Smith 1860:78 (junior homonym of *Ceratobasis* Lacordaire, 1848:362 Coleoptera).

Basicros Schulz 1906:156 (replacement name for *Ceratobasis*; *Meranoplus singularis* type species by monotypy); Wheeler & Wheeler, 1954:112-113 (larvae description); Brown & Kempf, 1960:171-172 (worker and gyne diagnosis); Brown, 1974:132 (worker, gyne and larvae diagnosis, male description; distribution and biology); Bolton, 2003:183-184 (taxonomic history).

Aspididris Weber, 1950:3 (*A. militaris* type species by monotypy), junior synonym of *Basicros* Schulz: Brown, 1974:132.

Creightonidris Brown 1949:89 (*C. scambognatha* type species by monotypy), *new synonym*.

Worker: Size relatively medium (TL between 4,9 and 8,7 mm). Reddish to dark-brown in color. Integument thick and in general densely sculptured; foveolate over head disc, mesosoma with conspicuous deep to shallowly set punctation, densely punctate over most or all the gaster. Pilosity conspicuous and bizarre; subdecumbent hairs abundant, spatulate, squamiform or plumose; erect abundant or sparse hairs clavate or stout and truncate. Labrum with fine sensorial hairs.

Head trapezoidal, triangular or rounded posteriorly; posterior and lateral head borders always visible and clearly distinct, and either rounded or crested, or else combined into curving, continuous or near continuous crest around posterior margin of head. Dorsal surface of head flattened to depressed, slightly convex in some species. Mandibles sub-erect, triangular to subtriangular, with straight, opposable, multidenticulate masticatory borders; apical portion from straight to strongly bent ventrally; basal portion flat and smooth to moderately convex and sculptured in frontal view; blade narrowed near insertion, the resulting peduncle either partly exposed or entirely hidden beneath clypeus, interspace between basal mandibular margin and anterior clypeal border present to absent in varying degrees. Eyes relatively

well developed (ocular index ca 11). Antennal scape flattened, broad, and lobate at the basal portion; funiculus moderately clavate with 11 segments.

Mesosoma usually robust. Metanotal groove present. Propodeal teeth always triangular in lateral view, lamelliform, short, more or less acute, and connected to each other by a transverse carina. Petiole pedunculate and usually with ventral carina bearing one or more teeth. Gastric dorsum with a median longitudinal strip slightly impressed or devoid of pilosity. According to Brown (1974) *Basicros* has 5 Malpighian tubules.

Gyne: Like conspecific worker, with modifications expected for myrmicine gynes. Ocelli present. Prescutum usually longer than wide; notauli from almost indistinct to shallowly depressed; parapsidial lines shining and usually indistinct from surrounding sculpture, deep to shallow parapsides; prescutellum with central area indistinct, scuto-scutellar sulcus from deeply to shallowly impressed or almost indistinct, with transversal rugulae varying in number; lateral wing of prescutellum projecting postero-ventrally as a more or less developed hook-like structure; scutellum square-like or semicircular, with its posterior half always sloped down, posterior border concave. Metanotum median elevation bears a pair of specialized setae. Forewing with distinct and strongly colored stigma; longitudinal veins Sc+R, SR, M+Cu, and A present; SR extends distally beyond stigma as tubular vein for most of its length; M and Cu also extend distally, initially as tubular veins, then as spectral veins almost reaching distal wing border; cross vein M+Cu either absent, as an appendix of M or complete, thus forming open or closed M1 cells; anal vein connected to M+Cu near branching point, either before, at or after. Hind wing with Sc+R extending shortly beyond point where they connect to M, which extends as tubular vein as much as Sc+R and then continues as spectral vein to wing distal border; basally M+Cu does not continue as tubular vein beyond junction with Anal vein, which is connected halfway to M and Cu branching point; tubular part of Cu is a mere stub, continuing as spectral vein distally; 5 sub-median hamuli present.

Male (modified from Brown, 1974): Slightly smaller and more slender than conspecific gynes. Color black with appendages somewhat lighter. Integument very finely and densely punctate, opaque or nearly so, including legs, mandibles and antennae. Head vertex with overlying loose rugulae, especially behind compound eyes and around ocellar triangle; loose rugulation also on alitrunk, especially on posterior half of mesonotum