

Material examined : 9 ex: India, Meghalaya, East Khasi hills, Nongkhylllem Reserve Forest, Umtasor, 25.iv.84, Coll. C. Radhakrishnan.

Diagnostic characters : Worker. Reddish brown, shining; antennae, clypeus, mandibles, legs and the apex of abdomen reddish; head, thorax and abdomen covered with abundant short, erect, thick, yellowish hairs; head closely and somewhat irregularly cribrate; thorax with sparsely scattered shallow, punctures; node of pedicel and basal abdominal segment punctate shining; abdomen almost smooth and shining; posterior lateral angles of head acute; thorax convex and arched above, anteriorly submargined, posteriorly the basal portion of metanotum separated from the apical portion by a semicircular carina.

Length : W. 4.5 mm.

Distribution : INDIA : (East Khasi hills), Meghalaya : Karnataka : Western India.

III. SubFamily PONERINAE

Ponerinae comprises of a primitive but heterogeneous group. They are entomophagous. Colony size is small. Nests are in the soil or old logs, small and inconspicuous. The economic importance of the Ponerinae in the tropics can hardly be overestimated, since an estimated 80% of their food is termites (Wheeler & Wheeler, 1972).

Key to the genera of Ponerinae

1. Claws pectinate; mandibles linear or triangular, with or without teeth; clypeus unarmed or with a carina. *Leptogenys*
- Claws simple 2
2. Mandibles articulated in the middle of the anterior margin of the head, when closed placed parallel to each other in front of the clypeus, when opened they lie in a straight line parallel to the anterior margin of the head. *Odontomachus*
- Mandibles articulated differently 3
3. Mandibles very long, narrow, converging near the base where they are provided with a strong tooth beneath; eyes very large, placed near the base of mandibles. *Harpegnathos*
- Mandibles differently shaped 4
4. Pronotum armed with two spines, anterior margin of clypeus arcuate, with numerous denticulations. *Odontoponera*
- Pronotum unarmed, clypeal margin without denticulations 5
5. Posterior coxae armed with a spine; pro-mesonotal suture obsolete; antennal fossae short; antennae not ending in a club. *Gnamptogenys*