

33. Genus *Meranoplus* Fred. Smith, 1853*Meranoplus* Smith, 1854, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Ser.*, (2) 2 : 224.*Meranoplus*, Brown, 1973, *In Tropical forest ecosystems in Africa and South America* : 161-185.

Diagnostic characters : worker. Head trapezoidal; sides of head deeply grooved for the reception of the antennae; mandibles with 4 teeth; antennae 9-jointed; eyed prominent; pedicel with 2 nodes; abdomen cordate.

Key to the species of *Meranoplus* Fred. Smith.

1. Mesonotum armed posteriorly with two long acute spines. *bicolor*
- mesonotum armed posteriorly with comparatively shorter teeth. 2
2. Abdomen finely reticulate, subopaque. *rothneyi*
- Abdomen highly polished, smooth and shining. *laeviventris*

105. *Meranoplus bicolor* (Guérin) (Fig .52)*Cryptocerus bicolor* Guérin, 1845, *Inconogr. Regne. Anim. Insect*, 7 : 425.*Meranoplus bicolor*, Devi and Singh, 1987, *Entomon.*, 12 (4) : 309-313.*Meranoplus becolor*, Tiwari *et al.*, 1994, *State Fauna Series 3 : Fauna of West Bengal, Part 8* : 44

Material examined : 14 ex, India, Meghalaya, East Khasi hills, Umran, 12.ix.67, Coll. R.K. Varshney; 2 ex, East Khasi hills, Lai-lad, 27.v.87, Coll. A.K. Karmakar; 2 ex, East Khasi hills, Umtru, Alt. 900', 26.iv.88, Coll. A.K. Karmakar; 22 ex, East Garo hills, Dianoqubi, 9-10.v.79, Coll. S.B. Roy & R.N. Tiwari; 1 ex, West Garo hills, Anogiri, 6.x.88, Coll. K.K. Roy & party.

Diagnostic characters : worker. Ferruginous red, abdomen black; head thorax and the 2nd node of pedicel coarsely sculptured, cribrate; abdomen closely and finely reticulate, head longer than broad; mandibles narrow, obscurely striate; promesonotal shield about as broad as long, with the anterior angles prominent and acute, the sides posteriorly with a small incision, and beyond that produced backwards into a long, somewhat laminate spine, on each side overhanging the metanotum; metandotum vertical, slightly concave, with a carina on each side ending above in an acute spine; 1st node of pedicel smooth with its apex bevelled; 2nd node globose; abdomen cordate.

Length: W. 4-5 mm.

Distribution : INDIA : (East Khasi hills, East and West Garo hills), Meghalaya; Continental and Insular India.

Remarks : Slow moving species. They feign dead when touched.