

Tapinoma melanocephalum, Mathew, 1983, *Bull. zool. Surv. India*, **5** (1) : 125-127.

Material examined : 16 ex : 6 ex, India, Meghalaya, East Khasi hills, Nongkhylllem Reserve Forest, Umtasor, 19.i.83, Coll. C. Radhakrishnan; 10 ex, East Khasi hills, Shillong, Risa Colony, 8.vii.79, Coll. R. Mathew.

Diagnostic characters : worker. Reddish or brownish yellow all over; pilosity entirely wanting; thorax proportionately much broader in front, posteriorly laterally compressed; thoracic suture distinct.

Length : W. 1.5 mm.

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

43. Genus: *Technomyrmex* Mayr

Technomyrmex Mayr, 1870, *Ann. Mus. Civ. Ges.* **2**:147

123. *Technomyrmex* sp.

Material examined : India: Meghalaya: East Garo Hills, Bamandanga, east of Phulbari, 5 ww, 27.x.1988, Coll. K.K. Ray and party.

Distribution : INDIA : (East Garo hills), Meghalaya.

VII SUB-FAMILY FORMICINAE

Formicinae is morphologically the most highly developed of all ants, their habits are diverse and exhibit specialized form of social behaviour. Diet is largely vegetarian and they show great predilection for sugary substances. The species of *Oecophylla*, *Polyrhachis* and *Camponotus* build silk nests on leaves using their larvae as silk-producing shuttles. This subfamily also has making ants and true social parasites. Workers have single jointed pedicel; vestigial sting; and an acidopore, ciliated round the margin.

Key to the genera of Formicinae

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|----|--|---------------------|
| 1. | Antennae 12-jointed | 2 |
| - | Antennae 11-jointed | 3 |
| 2. | Maxillary palpi 5-jointed | <i>Oecophylla</i> |
| - | Maxillary palpi 6-jointed | 4 |
| 3. | Metanotum and node of pedicel bispinous or bidentate | <i>Acantholepis</i> |
| - | Metanotum and node of pedicel without spines or teeth | 7 |
| 4. | Antennae inserted at a perceptible distance from posterior margin of clypeus | 5 |