

between the short frontal carinae finely longitudinally striated; the whole head with fine sculptures; mandibles smooth and shining, longitudinally striated, armed with five strong brown teeth and having many long yellow hairs; posterior part of clypeus having a pair of long yellow hairs; occiput straight with four pairs of hairs.

Pronotum with one pair of short hairs, mesonotum bare, propodeum moderately low with 9 long yellow hairs. Petiole is a truncated node with a flat dorsal surface slopping forward and having relatively dense whitish pubescence in the dorsal and lateral sides and 2 pairs of hairs.

Gaster globular and shining; the first gastral tergite bare while the second with one pair of hairs at the posterior margin; the end of the gaster with few long scattered yellow hairs.

Affinities: This species belongs to the *albicans* group and it appears taxonomically closest to *C. minimus* Collingwood, 1985 which was described from Saudi Arabia. Both of them are shining black, appendages yellow, body smooth and shining almost without sculpture but *C. agostii* is consistently larger, TL 10.79 versus 4.4 mm; and has a larger scape index, SI 130.4 versus SI 106.5. Moreover, both species are different in pilosity, *C. agostii* has one pair of short hairs on pronotum, mesonotum bare, propodeum with 9 long yellow hairs.

Etymology: This species is named after the Swiss ant taxonomist, Dr. Donat Agosti, the specialist of the genus *Cataglyphis*, research associate, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Remarks: This species was collected from an elevated and semi-isolated site on Gebel Sebaal, over 1500 m, and was found nesting under a rock. Only one individual was collected (the holotype).

Messor eglalae Sharaf, n. sp.

Holotype: 1 worker, Egypt, Zaranik, North Sinai, 7.V.2003; N: 31.08; E: 33.48; M.R.Sharaf; **Paratype:** 1 worker, Zaranik, North Sinai, 4.V.2003; N: 3 1.08; E: 33.48; M.R.Sharaf.

Measurements of Holotype: TL: 8.8; HL: 1.9; HW: 1.9; SL: 1.7; SI: 89.4; CI: 100

Type-locality: Egypt, Zaranik, North Sinai.