

GL	Gaster length. In lateral view, from anterior edge of first tergum (fourth abdominal tergum) to posterior edge of the last visible tergum.
TL	Total length. The summed length of HL, ML, WL, PL, PPL, GL.
OI	Ocular index; $100 \cdot EL / HW$.
SI	Scape index: $100 \cdot SL / HW$.
CI	Cephalic index: $100 \cdot HW / HL$.

In addition to morphometric measurements, Scanning Electron Microscope images of *Tropidomyrmex elianae* were made at MZUSP with a LEO 440[®] scanning electron microscope on gold coated specimens. Because of the exceeding fragility of the *Tropidomyrmex* integument, the dry mounted specimens collapsed, including those observed under SEM. However, the diagnostic characters of the genus and species are clearly visible.

High resolution digital images of *Tropidomyrmex* are here presented thanks to the kind permission of Dr Brian L. Fisher. These images are available on Antweb (www.antweb.org).

Taxonomic account

Tropidomyrmex gen. n.

(Figs. 1–11)

Type species: *Tropidomyrmex elianae* sp. n., by present designation.

Worker. Monomorphic myrmicine ants. Size relatively small (TL 2.15–2.57). Body color pale-yellowish, with appendages somewhat lighter. Integument extremely thin, predominantly smooth and rather opaque, with the inferior portions of meso- and metapleuron finely striate. Pilosity composed mainly of short to long, flexuous, suberect hairs.

Head subquadrate, in full face view; lateral borders and dorsal surface slightly convex; vertexal margin strongly concave medially; posterolateral corners rounded. Mandibles narrow, weakly convex dorsally, and with external margins considerably curved inwards; masticatory margins very short and mostly edentate, except for the apical tooth which is extremely developed. Palpal formula 1,2. Maxillae stipes without transverse crest. Clypeus very broad and convex dorsally, posteriorly emarginate; lateral portions set lower than central disc; anterior margin very pronounced anteriorly at the median portion. Frontal lobes very reduced, exposing the antennal insertions. Toruli visible in full-face view, their maximum exposure anterior to point of maximum width of frontal lobes. Frontal triangle indistinct. Compound eyes relatively small, occupying some 5% of the head capsule, and set at the same level as the surrounding surface of head. Antennae 11-segmented, segments gradually increasing in size without a noticeable club; apical segment as long as the four preceding ones; antennal condyle exposed; scapes with dorsal surface convex apically and failing to reach the vertexal margin.

Mesosoma compact; pronotum relatively large; promesonotal suture distinct under SEM (Fig. 10C); propleuron well developed; dorsal surface of mesonotum separated from anepisternum by a distinct suture; metanotal suture vestigial; propodeum unarmed and with the dorsal surface strongly sloped posteriorly, propodeal spiracle relatively large, posterior declivity strongly concave, so that it can receive the entire petiole when it is closed against the mesosoma, propodeal lobes reduced, not visible in side view. Legs relatively short and robust, middle and hind tibiae without apical spurs; tarsal claws simple.

Petiole short, without a ventral carina or processes, node distinct, high, and dorsally convex in profile; postpetiole broader than long in dorsal view and relatively narrow in lateral view, ventral process well developed, as broad as postpetiole, and formed by two divergent lobes, when seen in ventral view. Gaster moderately elongate, with the first segment (IV abdominal) larger than the posterior ones; tergite of abdominal segment IV (first gastral) broadly overlapping sternite on ventral surface of gaster; gastral shoulder inconspicuous.