

propodeum areolate; mesopleuron and metapleuron mostly smooth and shining; mesopleuron and metapleuron divided by strip of areolate sculpture that originates at ventral margin of mesopleuron and metapleuron and extends dorsally in direction of metanotal groove, this strip incomplete, fading before it connects with metanotal groove; propodeal spines long; declivity of propodeum with a thin carina. *Metasoma*: dorsum and sides of petiole strongly areolate; ventral margin lacking spongiform tissue or process of any kind; node of petiole, in lateral view, with two transverse rows each consisting of four long subdecumbent and simple hairs and composed of two hairs medially and two hairs distally (Fig. 35); posterior margin of petiolar node with small spongiform crest, best seen in fronto-dorsal view; in dorsal view, lateral projections of crest conspicuous and triangular; postpetiole with ventral and lateral spongiform lobes well developed; dorsum of postpetiole with longitudinal rugae, areas between rugae smooth and shining; base of first gastral sternite bearing conspicuous pad of spongiform tissue; basigastral costulae longitudinal and sharply defined, longer than maximum length of disc of postpetiole; dorsum of first gastral tergite with numerous long flagellate hairs; entire tergite posterior to basigastral costulae smooth and shining.

*Measurements*: holotype (and paratypes): GL = 0.40 (0.35–0.41), HL = 0.42 (0.39–0.41), HW = 0.31 (0.29–0.33), ML = 0.25 (0.24–0.25), PL = 0.20 (0.15–0.19), PPL = 0.09 (0.08–0.11), PW = 0.18 (0.17–0.19), SL = 0.29 (0.27–0.30), TL = 1.77 (1.62–1.79), WL = 0.41 (0.38–0.42). Indexes: CI = 73 (74–81), MI = 59 (58–64), PI = 48 (38–51), SI = 94 (88–96). (n = 10)

*Gyne and male*.—Unknown.

*Etymology*.—The name of this species refers to the Acarai Mountains, in the Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo region of southern Guyana, where specimens of this species were collected.

*Comments*.—*Strumigenys acarai* seems to belong to the *S. silvestrii* species group (*sensu* Bolton 2000), sharing with some members of that group: (i) the ventral margin of petiole lacking spongiform tissue; (ii) the small worker size (HL 0.39–0.43, HW 0.29–0.33, TL 1.62–1.79, WL 0.38–0.42 in *S. acarai*, HL 0.36–0.52, HW 0.28–0.44, TL 1.5–2.2, WL 0.36–0.56 in the *S. silvestrii* group); (iii) the apical fork of mandibles lacking intercalary denticles; (iv) the leading edge of the antennal scapes having two or more hairs that are curved or inclined toward the base of the scape; (v) the eyes minute, usually with only 1–3 ommatidia in total; (vi) the preocular carina short and ending before the level of the eye; (vii) the propodeal spines usually present; and (viii) the head and alitrunk usually sculptured but the mesopleuron and metapleuron entirely smooth and shining.

*Strumigenys acarai* shares with *S. carinithorax* Borgmeier, in addition to the character states mentioned above, the presence of a median fine longitudinal carina on the mesonotum. *Strumigenys acarai* differs from *S. carinithorax*, however, by having the ground-pilosity of the head, from above level of eye to close to occipital margin, very narrowly spatulate (almost simple) rather than spatulate as in *S. carinithorax*; the mandibles with a pair of minute inconspicuous preapical denticles proximal to the midlength of the mandibles rather than with a pair of spiniform preapical teeth as found in *S. carinithorax*, which are located in the distal third, and with a minute pair of denticles that may be difficult to see that are just proximal to the midlength of the mandibles (Bolton 2000); the leading edge of the antennal scapes with some multifurcated narrowly spatulate hairs rather than spoon-shaped hairs of *S. carinithorax*. *Strumigenys acarai* shares with *S. waiwai* (described here) the presence of multifurcated hairs. In the former species, however, these hairs seem to be restricted to the leading edge of the