with a spatulate sting appendage. Nonetheless, we consider the *T. weitzeckeri* species group as a well defined taxonomic group within the genus *Tetramorium* that can be distinguished straightforwardly from all other Afrotropical species groups with the character combination presented above.

Key to Afrotropical species of the *T. weitzeckeri* species group

1. Antennal scrobe well developed and usually deep, with distinct, and often sharp, margin all around, frontal carinae curve down ventrally between posterior eye level and posterior margin of head to form the posterior and ventral margins of the antennal scrobe (Fig. 2A), in few species posterior margin weak but visible; sculpturation on cephalic dorsum often reduced, generally 3 or fewer rugae present between frontal carinae, in few species up to 5 or 6, never more. (*T. muralti* complex) 2
- Antennal scrobe developed, but shallow, never with a sharp margin all around, frontal carinae almost reach posterior margin of head and function as dorsal margin of antennal scrobe, ventral margin of antennal scrobe never differentiated (Fig. 2B); sculpturation on cephalic dorsum never reduced, always at least 7 (generally distinctly more) longitudinal rugae present between frontal carinae. (*T. edouardi* and *T. weitzeckeri* complexes) 9

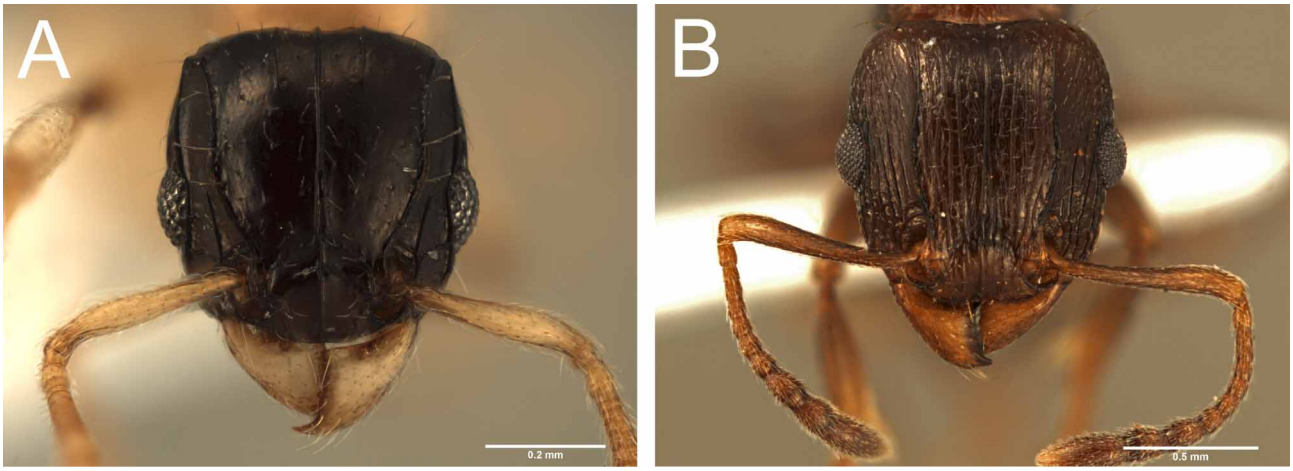

FIGURE 2. A. head of *T. flavithorax* showing the well-developed antennal scrobe with distinct margin all around. B. head of *T. mkomazi* showing the weakly developed antennal scrobe without posterior and ventral margins.

2. Species with characteristic bicoloration: head, petiole, postpetiole, and gaster very dark brown to black, strongly contrasting with white to yellow mesosoma and appendages (Fig. 3A). (Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria) ..... *Tetramorium flavithorax*
- Head, mesosoma, and gaster uniformly coloured (Fig. 3B) 3

FIGURE 3. A. body of *T. flavithorax* in lateral view illustrating the characteristic bicoloration. B. uniformly coloured body of *T. occidentale* in profile.