

***Tetramorium pinnipilum* Bolton, 1980**

(Figures 20A, 21B, 34, 35, 36)

Tetramorium pinnipilum Bolton, 1980:230. Holotype worker, ANGOLA, Salazar I.I.A.A., 9.-15.III.1972, leg. P.M. Hammond (BMNH) [examined]. Paratypes, 10 workers with same data as holotype (BMNH, MCZ, NHMB, MHNG) [examined].

Diagnosis

Tetramorium pinnipilum is the only species in the whole species group with pinnate, pectinate, or even plumose pilosity, thus easily identifiable.

Description

HL 0.733–0.83 (0.778); HW 0.678–0.800 (0.735); SL 0.522–0.644 (0.571); EL 0.144–0.183 (0.166); PW 0.500–0.600 (0.544); WL 0.878–1.100 (0.950); PSL 0.189–0.267 (0.224); PTL 0.150–0.200 (0.181); PTH 0.294–0.367 (0.319); PTW 0.222–0.289 (0.257); PPL 0.178–0.256 (0.218); PPH 0.278–0.333 (0.307); PPW 0.267–0.356 (0.316); CI 89–97 (94); SI 73–83 (78); OI 21–23 (23); PSLI 25–32 (29); PeNI 44–51 (47); LPeI 50–61 (57); DPeI 135–150 (142); PpNI 53–62 (58); LPpI 62–78 (71); DPpI 131–159 (146); PPI 115–129 (123) (24 measured).

Head longer than wide (CI 89–97). Anterior clypeal margin with distinct median notch. Frontal carinae well developed, weakening behind eye level, nearly reaching posterior margin of head. Antennal scrobe shallow, narrow, and without defined posterior and ventral margins, ending before posterior margin of head. Antennal scape of moderate length, not reaching posterior margin of head (SI 73–83). Eyes relatively small (OI 21–23), with 7 to 9 ommatidia in longest row. In profile metanotal groove weakly impressed. Propodeal spines long, spinose, and acute (PSLI 25–32). Propodeal lobes small, triangular and acute. Petiolar node high nodiform, in dorsal view between 1.3 and 1.5 times wider than long (DPeI 135–150) and in profile between 1.6 to 2 times higher than long (LPeI 50–61). Postpetiole in dorsal view around 1.5 times wider than long (DPpI 131–159); in lateral view antero-posteriorly compressed, around 1.3 to 1.6 times higher than long (LPpI 62–78). Mandibular sculpturation longitudinally rugose. Clypeus longitudinally rugose, usually with 3 to 5 rugae, often irregularly arranged, median rugae rarely unbroken and strong. Head with longitudinal rugulation, 9 to 12 widely spaced rugae between frontal carinae, most reaching posterior margin of head unbroken. Spaces between rugae and scrobal area with weak punctate ground sculpturation, appearing shiny. Mesosoma mostly longitudinally rugose, often irregularly, with strong widely spaced rugae; spaces between them and propodeal declivity unsculptured and shiny. Petiole, postpetiole, and gaster unsculptured, smooth and shiny. All dorsal surfaces of head, mesosoma, both waist segments and gaster with abundant, long, suberect to erect hairs, most of them conspicuously pinnate, pectinate, or plumose apically. Fine pubescence on tibiae and antennal scapes decumbent to subdecumbent. Head, mesosoma, petiole, and postpetiole orange-brown contrasting with very dark brown to black gaster.

Notes

Tetramorium pinnipilum is a leaf litter species that can be found in the rain forests of Angola and Kenya while it seems to be absent in transitional countries like Cameroon, Central African Republic, the D.R. Congo or Uganda. This is especially surprising since in the rain forests in Western Kenya it was one of the most common species in the leaf litter, and often abundantly present in pitfall traps and Winkler samples. The distinct pectinate, pinnate pilosity directly distinguishes *T. pinnipilum* from all other members of the species group. However, it shares many morphological similarities with *T. philippwagneri* and *T. schoutedeni* that separate them from the rest of the *T. edouardi* complex, especially the small eyes (OI 21–23 in all three species), and a very dark brown gaster that strongly contrasts with the yellowish or orange brown head, mesosoma, petiole, and postpetiole.