***Tetramorium occidentale* (Santschi, 1916)**
(Figures 3B, 6A, 8B, 9B, 64, 65, 66)

Xiphomyrmex occidentalis Santschi, 1916:50. Holotype worker, CAMEROON, no location (NHMB) [examined]. [Combination in *Tetramorium* by Bolton, 1980:229].

Xiphomyrmex insularis Menozzi, 1924:223. Syntype workers, SÃO TOMÉ & PRINCIPE, Principe I., Roca Infante Don Henrique, 100-300 m, 1.III.1901, leg. L. Fea (IEB) [not examined]. [Synonymy with *T. occidentale* by Bolton, 1980:229; here confirmed].

Diagnosis

Tetramorium occidentale can be well separated from the rest of the species complex by the following character set: anterior clypeal margin with median impression; metanotal groove not impressed; petiolar node moderately squamiform (DPeI 225–268, LPeI 36–43); postpetiole cuneiform without sharp dorsal margin (DPpI 153–182, LPpI 62–71) and only slightly wider than petiole (PPI 104–118).

Description

HL 0.589–0.833 (0.686); HW 0.567–0.822 (0.665); SL 0.378–0.533 (0.443); EL 0.122–0.172 (0.142); PW 0.400–0.561 (0.484); WL 0.600–0.956 (0.780); PSL 0.089–0.217 (0.156); PTL 0.100–0.133 (0.115); PTH 0.239–0.344 (0.287); PTW 0.228–0.333 (0.279); PPL 0.156–0.222 (0.185); PPH 0.233–0.322 (0.271); PPW 0.267–0.367 (0.311); CI 92–100 (97); SI 63–72 (67); OI 18–24 (21); PSLI 14–26 (23); PeNI 48–63 (58); LPeI 36–43 (40); DPeI 225–268 (244); PpNI 54–69 (64); LPpI 62–71 (68); DPpI 153–182 (169); PPI 104–118 (112) (38 measured).

Head generally weakly longer than wide, rarely as long as wide (CI 92–100). Anterior clypeal margin with median impression, sometimes small but always distinct. Frontal carinae strongly developed and sinuate, curving down ventrally shortly before posterior margin of head to form the posterior and ventral margins of antennal scrobe; sometimes carinae growing weaker behind eye level and posterior margin of scrobe only weakly marginate; scrobe well-developed and broad, with distinct margin all around, dorsal and ventral margins always sharply defined. Antennal scape short (SI 63–72). Eyes relatively small to moderate (OI 18–24), with 9 to 11 ommatidia in longest row. Metanotal groove in profile never impressed. Propodeal spines very variable, short to moderate in length, triangular to elongate-triangular or spinose in shape (PSLI 14–26). Propodeal lobes short and triangular with a very broad base. Petiolar node squamiform, in dorsal view generally between 2.2 to 2.7 times wider than long (DPeI 225–268), in lateral view between 2.3 to 2.8 times higher than long (LPeI 36–43). Postpetiole cuneiform, rounded dorsally without sharp dorsal margin, in dorsal view between 1.5 and 1.8 times wider than long (DPpI 153–182) and usually only faintly wider than petiole (PPI 104–118); in profile generally around 1.3 to 1.6 times higher than long (LPpI 62–71). Mandibles unsculptured, smooth and shiny. Clypeus generally with 3 longitudinal rugae, median ruga always strongly developed, lateral rugae sometimes weak or effaced. Head unsculptured except for 1 median longitudinal ruga between frontal carinae and 1 median longitudinal ruga anteriorly within the antennal scrobe, the latter usually running to eye level, rarely 1 or 2 very weak additional rugae present between median ruga and frontal carinae. Mesosoma generally unsculptured, rarely few weak longitudinal rugulae present on anterior pronotal dorsum. Ground sculpturation on head and mesosoma smooth and shiny. Both waist segments and gaster completely unsculptured, smooth and shiny. All dorsal body surfaces with simple, fine, long, and erect hairs. Fine pubescence on tibiae and antennal scapes appressed to decumbent. Colour uniformly very dark brown to black, appendages brown.

Notes

Tetramorium occidentale seems to be a widely distributed species found in West and Central African rain forests and on Principe Island. Surprisingly it was relatively rarely sampled since less than 50 specimens from