Notes

The new species is known from Gabon and Cameroon only. *Tetramorium trirugosum* can be placed together with *T. flavithorax* and *intermedium* because they are the only species in the complex with regular longitudinal rugae on the mesosomal dorsum. Of these any confusion with *T. flavithorax* is unlikely since this species shows a remarkable bicoloured pattern while *T. trirugosum* is uniformly brown to dark brown. It has to be noted that some specimens of *T. trirugosum* showed a fully longitudinally rugose mesosoma and could at first glance be confused with *T. intermedium*. However, the latter species possesses a much longer antennal scape (SI 74–81) and a much thicker petiolar node (DPeI 179–212, LPeI 40–45). Not considering sculpturation *T. trirugosum* is also superficially morphologically related to *T. muralti* though they can be well separated. The petiolar node of *T. trirugosum* is more transverse and thin (DPeI 257–300) than in *T. muralti* (DPeI 224–257). The opposite pattern can be observed for the postpetiole that is less antero-posteriorly compressed and more rounded in *T. trirugosum* (DPpI 150–169) than in *T. muralti* (DPpI 173–192). Additionally, the appendage coloration is also different. Antennae, mandibles, and legs of *T. muralti* in Gabon are always uniformly yellowish, and in Cameroon brown except for the whitish tibiae, whereas the appendage coloration of *T. trirugosum* is always uniformly brown. However, the easiest differentiation in this case is the cephalic and mesosomal sculpturation that greatly varies from one to the other species. The remaining species in the complex either possess an impressed anterior clypeal margin, or a completely unsculptured mesosoma, or both, thus cannot be confused with *T. trirugosum*.

Etymology

The species epithet refers to the three conspicuous rugae on the mesosomal dorsum.

Material examined

CAMEROON: Bimbia Forest, 7.4 km 119° ESE Limbe, 03° 58.9’ N, 09° 15.8’ E, 40m, 14.iv.2000, leg. B.L. Fisher; Bondé Forest, N'kolo village, 03° 13' 18" N, 010° 14' 48" E, 40m, 12.IV.2000, leg. B.L. Fisher; Mbalmayo, 1993, leg. N. Stork; Res. Campo, 2.16km 106° ESE Ébodjé, 2°34.1 N, 9°50.7'E, 10m, 9.IV.2000, leg. B.L. Fisher; **GABON**: Makokou, CNRS, 24.VI.1974, leg. W.H. Gotwald.

***Tetramorium weitzeckeri* species complex**

***Tetramorium bendai* Hita Garcia, Fischer & Peters sp. n.**
(Figures 11A, 12B, 13A, 73, 74, 75)

Holotype worker, BURUNDI, Bujumbura, 27.V.1977, leg. A. Dejean (BMNH: ZFMK_HYM_2009_6204). Paratypes, 13 workers with same data as holotype (BMNH: 11 workers ZFMK_HYM_2009_6203, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6205, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6206, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6207; CASC: 1 worker ZFMK_HYM_2009_6173; ; ZFMK: 1 worker ZFMK_HYM_2009_6208).

Diagnosis

The characteristic and dense reticulate-punctate ground sculpturation overlaid by longitudinal rugulae on head and mesosoma, absence of standing hairs on mesosoma, petiole, postpetiole, and first gastral tergite, and strongly squamiform postpetiole (DPpI 206–239, LPpI 41–50) render *T. bendai* immediately recognizable.

Description

HL 0.794–0.828 (0.814); HW 0.756–0.811 (0.783); SL 0.578–0.617 (0.595); EL 0.178–0.200 (0.187); PW 0.567–0.606 (0.588); WL 0.944–0.989 (0.969); PSL 0.244–0.267 (0.254); PTL 0.111–0.122 (0.118); PTH 0.367–0.378 (0.375); PTW 0.311–0.339 (0.327); PPL 0.172–0.200 (0.187); PPH 0.389–0.422 (0.411); PPW