

ZFMK_HYM_2009_6250; FMNH: 1 worker ZFMK_HYM_2009_6251; LACM: 1 worker ZFMK_HYM_2009_6252; MHNG: 2 workers ZFMK_HYM_2009_6149, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6150; NHMB: 2 workers ZFMK_HYM_2009_6254; NMK: 3 workers ZFMK_HYM_2009_6146, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6147, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6148; SAMC: 1 worker ZFMK_HYM_2009_6253; ZFMK: 16 workers ZFMK_HYM_2009_6151, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6152, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6153, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6154, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6155, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6156, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6157, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6158, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6159, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6161, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6162, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6168, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6169, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6170, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6171).

Diagnosis

Tetramorium boltoni can be best distinguished from other members of the species complex by the following character combination: SI 71–78; propodeal spines moderately sized to long (PSLI 23–29), elongate-triangular with a broad base to spinose; head and mesosoma strongly longitudinally rugose, ground sculpturation generally reduced, smooth and shiny; standing hairs present on first gastral tergite; coloration uniformly very dark brown to black.

Description

HL 0.678–0.761 (0.717); HW 0.644–0.744 (0.686); SL 0.467–0.539 (0.513); EL 0.144–0.167 (0.155); PW 0.489–0.561 (0.523); WL 0.778–0.956 (0.843); PSL 0.167–0.217 (0.186); PTL 0.100–0.128 (0.112); PTH 0.289–0.339 (0.313); PTW 0.256–0.306 (0.275); PPL 0.144–0.200 (0.176); PPH 0.267–0.333 (0.298); PPW 0.289–0.356 (0.320); CI 92–100 (96); SI 71–79 (75); OI 21–24 (22); PSLI 23–29 (26); PeNI 48–60 (53); LPeI 31–40 (36); DPeI 226–267 (245); PpNI 55–65 (61); LPpI 52–67 (59); DPpI 167–200 (182); PPI 105–125 (117) (47 measured).

Head slightly longer than wide, sometimes as long as wide (CI 92–100). Anterior clypeal margin distinctly medially impressed. Frontal carinae strongly developed, becoming weaker behind level of eye and ending shortly before posterior margin of head. Antennal scrobe narrow, shallow, and without defined ventral margin, ending before posterior margin of head. Antennal scape of medium length (SI 71–79). Eyes relatively small to moderate (OI 21–24), with 7 to 9 ommatidia in longest row. Metanotal groove impressed. Propodeal spines long (PSLI 23–29), elongate-triangular to spinose with broad base and acute apex. Propodeal lobes small, elongate-triangular and acute. Node of petiole squamiform, in dorsal view more than 2 times wider than long (DPeI 226–260) and in profile 2.5 to 3.2 times higher than long (LPeI 32–40). Postpetiole in dorsal view distinctly wider than long (DPpI 167–200) and much more voluminous than petiole. In lateral view postpetiole weakly to moderately squamiform and thicker compared to petiole, only slightly antero-posteriorly compressed, between 1.5 to 1.9 times higher than long (LPpI 52–67). Mandibles distinctly longitudinally striate. Clypeus usually with 3 to 5 longitudinal rugae, median ruga always strongly developed and unbroken, while lateral rugae variable. Head longitudinally rugose with widely spaced rugae, dorsum usually with 7 to 10 longitudinal rugae between frontal carinae, almost all running unbroken to posterior margin of head. Spaces between rugae with very weak, nearly effaced ground sculpture or completely unsculptured, generally shiny. Scrobal area with reduced punctate ground sculpture or unsculptured. Mesosoma dorsally and laterally with coarse, mostly longitudinal, widely spaced rugulation. Spaces between rugae and propodeal declivity unsculptured, smooth and shiny. Petiole, postpetiole and gaster completely unsculptured, smooth and shiny. All dorsal surfaces of head, mesosoma, both waist segments and gaster with abundant, long, fine, and simple suberect to erect hairs. Fine pubescence on tibiae appressed, on antennal scapes appressed to decumbent. Head, mesosoma, petiole, postpetiole, and gaster uniformly very dark brown to black, appendages often of lighter colour.

Notes

Tetramorium boltoni is a widely distributed and very common rain forest species which can be found throughout the rain forests of Nigeria to Western Kenya and from Sudan to Angola. Although it is such a common and relatively abundant species it was, previously to this study, always listed as *T. weitzackeri*. This study