

## Diagnosis

The following character set distinguishes *Tetramorium humbloti* from other species of the complex: propodeal spines long and acute (PSLI 29–39); mesosoma, especially pronotum, generally unsculptured, smooth and shiny; first gastral tergite without standing hairs.

## Description

HL 0.733–0.833 (0.768); HW 0.711–0.822 (0.743); SL 0.522–0.622 (0.570); EL 0.156–0.211 (0.178); PW 0.528–0.633 (0.566); WL 0.867–1.000 (0.912); PSL 0.239–0.322 (0.260); PTL 0.083–0.128 (0.103); PTH 0.322–0.389 (0.348); PTW 0.289–0.378 (0.324); PPL 0.167–0.211 (0.189); PPH 0.350–0.467 (0.375); PPW 0.333–0.422 (0.371); CI 92–99 (97); SI 73–83(77); OI 21–27 (24); PSLI 29–39 (34); PeNI 51–62 (57); LPeI 25–32 (28); DPeI 300–367 (328); PpNI 59–68 (64); LPpI 44–57 (50); DPpI 183–207 (196); PPI 110–118 (113) (23 measured).

Head slightly longer than wide (CI 92–99). Anterior clypeal margin generally with shallow but distinct median impression. Frontal carinae strongly developed, ending distinctly before posterior margin of head. Antennal scrobe narrow, shallow, ventral margin not differentiated, not reaching posterior margin of head. Antennal scape of moderate length, not reaching posterior margin of head (SI 73–83). Eyes of variable size, from relatively small to large (OI 21–27), with 10 to 12 ommatidia in longest row. Metanotal groove weakly impressed. Propodeal spines very long, stout, and acute (PSLI 29–39). Propodeal lobes small, triangular, and acute. Node of petiole strongly squamiform, in dorsal view highly transverse, between 3 to 4 times wider than long (DPeI 300–367), in lateral view more than 3 times higher than long (LPeI 25–32). Postpetiole distinctly squamiform, in dorsal view around 2 times wider than long (DPpI 183–207); in lateral view not much thicker than petiolar node and around 1.7 to 2.2 times higher than long (LPpI 44–57). Mandibles distinctly longitudinally striate. Clypeus irregularly rugose, mostly longitudinally, sometimes rugo-reticulate; median ruga sometimes developed. Head with mostly longitudinal rugulation, dorsum of head with 9 to 12 widely spaced rugae between frontal carinae, often with cross-meshes and never reaching posterior margin of head. Spaces between dorsal rugae and scrobal area generally with strong reticulate-punctate ground sculpture, but sometimes weakly developed. Lateral area of mesosoma rugo-reticulate or rugose, except for smooth and shiny pronotum; dorsum of mesosoma, especially on pronotum, typically completely unsculptured, smooth and shiny, sometimes with weak superficial sculpturation on mesonotum, propodeal declivity completely unsculptured and shiny. Petiole, postpetiole and gaster completely unsculptured, smooth and shiny. Head generally with numerous fine, long, erect hairs; mesosoma, petiole, and postpetiole usually completely without hairs, rarely mesosoma with up to 3 pairs, and petiole and postpetiole with 1 to 2 pairs. First gastral tergite always without standing hairs. Antennal scapes and tibiae with appressed, fine pubescence. Coloration variable, from light reddish brown to dark brown, usually uniformly so but often gaster darker.

## Notes

*Tetramorium humbloti* is widely distributed throughout the Malagasy area and can be found on the African continent from South Africa to Tanzania. Generally, *T. humbloti* can be grouped together with *T. bendai*, *T. sepultum*, and *T. tanaense* because of obvious morphological similarities. However, the generally unsculptured mesosomal dorsum, especially on the pronotum, in *T. humbloti* differs strongly from the longitudinally rugose or rugulose sculpturation present in the other three species. Apart from this, the postpetiole is less strongly transverse (DPpI 183–207) than in *T. bendai* (DPpI 206–238). Additionally, the petiole in *T. humbloti* (DPeI 300–367) is more transverse than in *T. bendai* (DPeI 259–286) and *T. sepultum* (DPeI 259–269) while it is comparable to *T. tanaense* (DPeI 305–350). Furthermore, in *T. humbloti* standing hairs are generally absent from the mesosoma, only rarely up to 6 are observable, while in *T. sepultum* there are 14 to 16 present. In *T. bendai* there are usually none present and *T. tanaense* shows up to 8 standing hairs on the mesosoma. It has to be pointed out that the morphometric range of *T. tanaense* is well within the range of *T. humbloti* and both are