and much more voluminous than petiole; in lateral view weakly to moderately squamiform and thicker compared to petiole, only slightly antero-posteriorly compressed, between 1.4 to 1.8 times higher than long (LPpI 56–69). Mandibles distinctly longitudinally striate. Clypeus usually with 3 to 5 longitudinal rugae, median ruga always strongly developed and unbroken, while lateral rugae variable. Clypeus usually with 3, sometimes 5, longitudinal rugae; median ruga always strongly developed and unbroken, while lateral rugae variable. Cephalic dorsum and lateral part of head ventral to scrobe longitudinally rugose with widely spaced rugae, usually with 8 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 smooth and shiny. Scrobal area with reduced punctate ground sculpture or completely unsculptured. Mesosoma dorsally and laterally with distinct, mostly longitudinal, widely spaced rugae. Spaces between them 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 and mesosoma orange to reddish brown with paler, more yellowish legs, contrasting with dark brown to blackish petiole, postpetiole and gaster.

Notes

Tetramorium snellingi is not endemic to the Kakamega Forest in Western Kenya as stated in Hita Garcia et al. (2010). Examination of Tetramorium material in BMNH revealed one specimen from Ruwenzori, Uganda, originally labelled as T. weitzeckeri to be T. snellingi. Two unidentified specimens from the Central African Republic in CASC could also be recognized as T. snellingi. As a conclusion to this finding, the known distribution range of T. snellingi has to be extended from Kakamega in Western Kenya through the Ruwenzori Mountains in Western Uganda to the Central African Republic. Tetramorium snellingi is morphologically very much linked to T. boltoni, T. renae, and T. weitzeckeri while its presence of standing hairs on the first gastral tergite separates it clearly from T. bendai, T. humbloti, T. sepultum, and T. tanaense, and the absence of conspicuous cephalic ground sculpturation from T. guineense. The typical coloration of T. snellingi makes it easily separable from T. boltoni and T. weitzeckeri but apart from this they also differ in the length of antennal scapes and propodeal spines. Yet, T. renae is also generally bicoloured but both are difficult to confuse since in T. renae it is the pale yellowish brown gaster, and to a lesser degree the head, too, that are of much lighter colour than the reddish brown mesosoma.

Material examined

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Sangha-Mbaéré, Rés. Dzanga-Sangha, 12.7 km 326° NW Bayanga, 03° 00' N, 16° 12' E, 420m, 10.-17.V.2001, leg. B.L. Fisher; KENYA: Kakamega Forest, Buyangu, 00° 20' 53,6" N, 34° 51' 54,1" E, ca. 1650m, 06.IX.2007, leg. F. Hita Garcia; Kakamega Forest, Colobus, 00° 21' 18.5" N, 34° 51' 30.1" E, ca. 1650m, 14.VI.2007, leg. M. Peters; Kakamega Forest, Isecheno, 00° 14' 52.3" N, 34° 52' 5.3" E, ca. 1600m, 14. VIII.2007, leg. F. Hita Garcia; Kakamega Forest, Ikuywa, 00° 12' 42,6" N, 34° 55' 52,3" E, ca. 1650m, 16.VIII.2007, leg. F. Hita Garcia; Kakamega Forest, Kaimosi, 00° 07' 40.8" N, 34° 50' 24" E, ca. 1650m, 30.VIII.2008, leg. G. Fischer; Kakamega Forest, Kisere, 00° 23' 6,2"N, 34° 53' 37,8" E, ca. 1650m, 16.VII.2007, leg. F. Hita Garcia; Kakamega Forest, Malava, 00° 27' 10.6" N, 34° 51' 48.7" E, ca. 1650m, 19.VI.2007, leg. G. Fischer; Kakamega Forest, Mwanzu, 00° 14' 15,5" N, 34° 52' 03,2" E, ca. 1650m, 02.VIII.2007, leg. F. Hita Garcia; Kakamega Forest, Salazar, 00° 19' 36" N, 34° 52' 14.6" E, ca. 1650m, 21.VI.2007, leg. M. Peters; Kakamega Forest, Yala, 00° 12' 9" N, 34° 52' 6"E, ca. 1600m, V.2008, leg. M. Peters; UGANDA: Ruwenzori, Bundibugyo, 21.V.1993, leg. Erne & Cuccodoro.