

Sculpture of head and alitrunk minutely punctulate-granulose, much like that of ordinary *Smithistruma* and *Strumigenys* species; nodes also similar, appearing opaque to subopaque; basal costulae of first gastric segment few and widely spaced, long on the sides and shorter in the middle; first gastric segment dorsally with what appears to be faint pebble-shagreening, but rather strongly shining. This effect may be due to a thin coat of the secretions with which dacetines often cover themselves, but there definitely seems to be some sort of feeble sculpture present, at least in the Ancona specimens.

Color yellowish to medium ferrugineous.

FEMALE.—Emery gives the total length as 2.2 mm. and the length without the mandibles as 2 mm. and describes the alitrunk as “subtilius, longitudinaliter coriaceo-rugulosus.” There appears to be little or no difference in proportion between the female and large workers except the usual ones in the case of thoracic development and possibly in the greater bulk of the gaster.

MALE.—The male which André associated with this species has not, to my knowledge, actually been taken with workers or females. It could be the male of *Smithistruma baudueri*, with which another male has been uncertainly identified, or of *Trichoscapa membranifera*, for which no male is known, or it could belong to an undescribed dacetine species, the workers or females of which have not yet been found. I refer those who wish to speculate on the relationships of the males to the references given above in the synonymy.

I have synonymized Santschi's variety *barbarus* because of his very feeble differentiating characters, based on a single small specimen from Tunisia as compared with Italian specimens from what was apparently a single collection. Since Emery had already (1917) determined some typical *argiolus* from Tunisia, I can see no reason for considering his small specimen as a geographical race.

Range.—(According to Emery): *Type locality*—“in graminibus . . . ad S. Concordio di Moriano in agro Lucensi.” Insular and continental Italy, Southern France, Pantelleria, Tunisia, Hungary.

This species probably occurs at many points on the shores of the Mediterranean.

Biology.—Apparently this species accepts drier and more open situations than do most other dacetines; in this respect *argiolus* seems to be similar to *Smithistruma baudueri* and *Trichoscapa membranifera*, which apparently have similar ranges in the Mediterranean area. It would not be surprising if *argiolus* were found to occur in southeastern North America or other New World