

CI = Cephalic Index (HW x 100/HL).

SI = Scape Index (SL x 100/HW).

SL = Scape Length, excluding basal neck.

EL = Eye Length; the maximum diameter of the eye.

ML = Mesosoma Length; the length of the mesosoma in lateral view, from the point at which the pronotum meets the cervical shield to the posterior base of the propodeal lobes or teeth.

PRW = Pronotum width; the maximum width of pronotum in dorsal view.

Petiole Length; the maximum length measured in dorsal view, from the anterior margin to the posterior margin.

Petiole Width; maximum width measured in dorsal view.

Postpetiole Length; maximum length measured in dorsal view.

Postpetiole Width; maximum width measured in dorsal view.

Material was examined from the following collections: California Academy of Science Collection, San Francisco, California, USA (CASC); King Saud Museum of Arthropods, King Saud University, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSMA); Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland (MHNG); Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland (NHMB); World Museum Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom (WML); Oxford Museum of Natural History, United Kingdom (OXUM), and the B. Taylor Collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

Plagiolepis abyssinica Forel, 1894

Figs. 1 a-c

Plagiolepis exigua ssp. *abyssinica* Forel, 1894a:73.

Syntype worker. ETHIOPIA, (*Ilg*) (MHNG) [examined].

Plagiolepis abyssinica Forel, Collingwood, 1985:297; elevated to species.

Redescription of worker.— TL 1.20, HL 0.30, HW 0.30, SL 0.29, EL 0.07, PRW 0.18, ML 0.30, CI 97, SI 100.

Collingwood (1985) gave a typical worker from Fayfa, Saudi Arabia, as: TL 1.25, HL 0.35, HW 0.28, CI 80, SI 100, EL 0.05 (0.18 X HW)

Body blackish brown, femora yellowish brown, antennae, clypeus and mandibles yellowish, smooth and shining. Head nearly as long as broad with clearly convex sides. Occiput distinctly concave with rounded corners. Head dorsum with scattered short yellow pubescence. Eyes relatively large, 0.24 X HW, with 9 ommatidia in the longest row and occupying less than one quarter of head sides. Antennal scape just surpassing the posterior margin of head. Clypeus and mandibles with relatively abundant long yellow hairs. Area in front of eyes with several pairs of long hairs. Mesosoma and gaster with relatively abundant pubescence. Erect pilosity of gastral tergites long and situated on the posterior margins.

Remarks.— Collingwood's (1985) decision to elevate this taxon to species rank is confirmed here. *P. abyssinica* was originally described as a subspecies of *P. exigua* but differs on a number of points. For *P. abyssinica*, the body color is brownish and the antennal scapes surpass the posterior margin of the head, whereas in *P. exigua* the color is yellowish and the antennal scapes do not reach posterior margin. Moreover, the eyes in *P. abyssinica* are consistently larger (EL 0.24 X HW) with 9 ommatidia in the longest row and *exigua* is smaller (EL 0.19 X HW), with only 6 ommatidia in the longest row. *P. exigua* as described by Forel (1894) had a smooth, shiny appearance but with sparse punctations on the head and gaster, *P. abyssinica* has no obvious punctuation.

Distribution in Arabia.— Fayfa (Saudi Arabia) (Collingwood, 1985).

Plagiolepis boltoni Sharaf & Aldawood sp. n.

Figs. 2 a-c

Holotype worker.— Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, Al Diri'yah, 23.xii.2009, 24°44'N, 46°35' E, altitude 688 m.a.s.l. (*Mostafa R. Sharaf & Abdulrahman S. Aldawood*); deposited in KSMA.

Paratypes.— 7 workers with same data as holotype deposited at WML, in Kiko Gómez collection, NHMB, MHNG, BMNH, CASC and KSUC. 17 workers; Saudi Arabia: Al Hilwa village