

(Hawtat Bani Tamim) ca 180 km south of Riyadh city, 8.xi.2010, 23°25' N, 46°46' E, altitude 631 m.a.s.l. (*Mostafa R. Sharaf*) deposited in KSMA.

Holotype worker: TL 1.40, HL 0.43, HW 0.40, SL 0.41, EL 0.14, ML 0.43, SI 103, CI 93.

Paratype workers: TL 1.35-1.60, HL 0.41-0.44, HW 0.36-0.40, SL 0.36-0.41, ML 0.40-0.44, EL 0.11-0.14, SI 100-103, CI 88-93 (N=5).

Unicolorous yellow, eyes and apex of gaster black, mandible teeth brown. Head distinctly longer than broad, second funicular segment distinctly shorter than the third, fourth funicular segment distinctly longer than broad, nearly subequal to the third; antennae with abundant decumbent yellow pubescence. Head in full face view with distinctly convex sides and the eyes just breaking the outline; the occiput straight or weakly concave with clearly rounded corners. Scapes surpass the occiput by about a quarter of their length. Head dorsum smooth and brilliant but with abundant scattered hair pits. Eyes large (EL 0.30-0.35x HW) with 12 ommatidia in the longest row. Anterior clypeal margin with two lateral pairs of long yellow hairs, posterior margin with one pair of long hairs situated between antennal insertions. Profile of mesosoma elongated, with a flattish dorsal surface and a weak metanotal suture. The propodeal spiracle is minute and circular. The whole mesosoma is bare except for short pubescence on the pronotum and mesonotum. The gaster has a few long sub-erect yellow hairs on each tergite.

*Remarks.*— *P. boltoni* is morphologically similar to *P. exigua*, sharing the following characters: color yellow, integument smooth and shining, head longer than broad with convex sides, occiput feebly concave, and second funicular segment distinctly shorter than third. *P. boltoni* can be separated from *P. exigua* by the scapes surpassing the posterior margin of head, whereas in the latter the scapes do not reach the posterior margin of head. *P. boltoni* has larger eyes containing eleven ommatidia in the longest row (EL 0.30-0.35X HW), whereas in *P. exigua*, eyes are smaller with only six ommatidia (EL 0.19X HW). *P. boltoni* also is consistently larger, TL 1.35-1.60 versus TL 1.23, and has a slightly higher mesosomal length, ML 0.40-0.44 versus ML 0.35. The anterior clypeal margin of *P. exigua* has two lateral pairs of

long yellow hairs, posterior margin with one pair of long hairs situated between antennal insertions. The anterior clypeal margin of *P. exigua* has several pairs of long yellow hairs and posterior margin bare. The mesosoma profile is elongated in *P. boltoni* with a relatively flat dorsal surface and weak metanotal suture. The mesosoma of *P. exigua* is more compact, short with a convex pronotum and mesonotum and a distinct metanotal groove.

*Habitat and biology.*— *Plagiolepis boltoni* was collected from an arid area planted with small neglected date palm trees. Some of the ants were observed foraging close to the bases of the trees. Nothing more is known about the biology of the colony except that it was small and in soil close to the road surrounding Riyadh. The second paratype series also was found nesting near a palm tree; in this case the soil was moist because of irrigation. The ants were coexisting with other ant species including *Pachycondyla sennaarensis* Mayr; *Camponotus sericeus* (Fabricius); *Cataglyphis abyssinica* (Forel) and *Cardiocondyla emeryi* Forel. The area was abundantly inhabited also by springtails, lygaeid bugs, web spinners, staphylinid and tenebrionid beetles. It appears that *P. boltoni* prefers areas around palm trees.

*Etymology.*— This species is named in gratitude and honor of Barry Bolton.

*Plagiolepis breviscapa* Collingwood & van Harten 2005

*Plagiolepis breviscapa* Collingwood & van Harten, 2005: 77. Holotype worker, YEMEN, Lahj, 1.x.-17.xii.2001, (*A. v. Harten & A. Sallam*) (not in WML, presumably lost).

*Holotype worker.*— TL 1.40, HL 0.47, HW 0.41, SL 0.26, EL 0.09, SI 63, CI 87 (Collingwood & van Harten, 2005).

The head, body and legs are completely pale. The head is nearly as long as broad, the antennal scapes are distinctly short, about half of head length. The funicular segments are quadrate.