

Syntype queen (gaster is broken).— HL 0.63, HW 0.56, SL 0.53, EL 0.19, CI 89, SI 95, PRW 0.25, ML 0.92.

Syntype male.— TL 1.42-1.49, HL 0.38, HW 0.35-0.36, SL 0.34-0.38, EL 0.17, CI 92-95, SI 97-106, PRW 0.35-0.36, ML 0.61-0.63.

Worker.— Yellowish brown, gaster yellowish paler than rest of body, legs and antennae yellow, propodeum dorsum characteristically reddish brown. Body smooth and shining. Head distinctly longer than broad with clearly convex sides. Eyes, in full-face view, fail to break head sides. Antennae with appressed pubescence. Second funicular segment as long as or little broader than long. Third funicular segment little longer than broad. Second and third funicular segments nearly sub equal. Fourth funicular segment distinctly longer than broad, and little longer than third. The remaining funicular segments longer than broad. Scape surpassing posterior margin of head by 2-3 X its thickness. Eyes large (EL 0.12), 0.3X HW, with eleven ommatidia in the longest row. Anterior clypeal margin with several pairs of long hairs. Occiput nearly straight or feebly concave with strongly rounded posterior corners. Promesonotal suture indistinct. Metanotal groove feebly impressed. Erect hairs limited to anterior margin of clypeus and a small number on the gaster. Dorsum of head with abundant but widely spaced pubescence; other pubescence sparse.

Queen.— Body brown, legs and antennae yellowish brown. Eyes very large (EL 0.19) occupying about half of head sides. Anterior clypeal margin with two pairs of long hairs. Palp formula 6,4. Second funicular segment about twice broader than long. Third funicular segment twice longer than broad, and twice longer than second. Fourth funicular segment clearly longer than broad and nearly as long as, or little shorter than, second and third segments combined. Occiput nearly straight or feebly concave with rounded posterior corners. Mesosoma robust, distinctly dorsoventrally compressed. Propodeal spiracle circular. Pronotal humeri with one pair of long hairs. Body with abundant appressed pubescence.

Male.— Body pale brown, legs yellow, all covered with relatively few sparse pubescence. Head distinctly broader than long. Occiput straight.

Third funicular segment about twice longer than second segment. Fourth funicular segment as long as or little longer than second and third segments combined. Anterior clypeal margin with one pair of long hairs. Eyes prominent occupying more than half of head sides.

Material examined.— Saudi Arabia, Wadi Shugub, IV.1983 (*C. A. Collingwood*) (4 specimen, WML); Yemen, II.1999, locality not given (*A. van Harten*) (1 specimen, WML). Egypt (slightly smaller workers), Kaseh Tourism Village, Marsa Matrouh, 31°21' N 27°14' E; 17.viii.2007 (*M. R. Sharaf*) (1 specimen, OUM); St Katherine protectorate around the town of St Katherine, in mountains above 1500m, early 2002 (*M. James*) (1 specimen, OUM).

Distribution in Arabia.— Abu-Arish (Jizan), Al Kola, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) (*Collingwood*, 1985); Ain Hamran, Dhofar (Oman); Sa'a, Al-Mahwit, Al-Tawilan-Al-Kowd (Yemen) (*Collingwood & Agosti*, 1996).

Plagiolepis pygmaea (Latreille, 1798)

Plate 4, Figs. b-d

Formica pygmaea Latreille, 1798:45. FRANCE, Brive (MNHN) [not examined].

Plagiolepis dufourii: Menozzi, 1925: 19.

Plagiolepis obscuriscapus Santschi, 1923: 137.

Worker.— TL 1.49-1.92, HL 0.38-0.46, HW 0.35-0.42, SL 0.32-0.46, EL 0.08- 0.12, SI 91-110, CI 87-91, PRW 0.24-0.28, ML 0.41-0.44 (N=3)

Body uniformly brown or blackish brown, legs yellow, mandibles, antennae and coxae yellowish brown. Smooth and shining. Head distinctly longer than broad with convex sides. Occiput distinctly concave with rounded corners. Eyes relatively large with 9-10 ommatidia in the longest row (EL 0.12) and (0.28X HW). Clypeus with several relatively long hairs, that are not restricted to the anterior margin. Scape surpassing posterior margin of head by at least one and half times its thickness. Funicular segments 2-4 distinctly broader than long. Fifth funicular segment longer than broad. Pubescence whitish, appressed and abundant on antennae, head and gaster but less abundant on mesosoma and legs. Posterior margins of all gastral