

Table 4

The mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum values (in mm) of the measurements and indices of already described species of *inezae* species group (*M. inezae*, *M. radchenkoi* and *M. rigatoi*).

		<i>M. inezae</i> workers (3)			<i>M. radchenkoi</i> workers (4)			<i>M. rigatoi</i> (worker 1)
		Mean ± SD	Min	Max	Mean ± SD	Min	Max	
Measurements	FLW	0.45 ± 0.02	0.43	0.46	0.40 ± 0.01	0.39	0.40	0.42
	FW	0.42 ± 0.03	0.44	0.39	0.39 ± 0.01	0.38	0.39	0.36
	HL	1.21 ± 0.06	1.28	1.16	1.10 ± 0.03	1.07	1.13	1.14
	PL	0.63 ± 0.01	0.63	0.62	0.57 ± 0.01	0.56	0.58	0.56
	PH	0.39 ± 0.01	0.40	0.38	0.31 ± 0.01	0.30	0.32	0.34
	ESL	0.37 ± 0.05	0.40	0.31	0.35 ± 0.01	0.34	0.36	0.46
	HW	0.94 ± 0.04	0.98	0.90	0.85 ± 0.03	0.81	0.88	0.88
	SL	1.05 ± 0.05	1.10	1.00	0.99 ± 0.02	0.96	1.01	1.12
	PPH	0.43 ± 0.01	0.44	0.42	0.36 ± 0.03	0.33	0.39	0.42
	PW	0.31 ± 0.01	0.32	0.30	0.25 ± 0.01	0.24	0.25	0.27
	PPW	0.45 ± 0.02	0.46	0.42	0.36 ± 0.01	0.36	0.37	0.38
	PPL	0.47 ± 0.03	0.50	0.45	0.39 ± 0.03	0.36	0.42	0.42
	PNW	0.73 ± 0.04	0.76	0.68	0.60 ± 0.01	0.58	0.60	0.64
	ESD	0.53 ± 0.03	0.55	0.50	0.42 ± 0.01	0.41	0.42	0.44
	AL	1.84 ± 0.11	1.86	1.72	1.56 ± 0.05	1.49	1.61	1.64
	AH	0.73 ± 0.06	0.66	0.78	–	–	–	–
	SCL	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	SCW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	GL	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Indices	GW	–	–	–	–	–	–
TL		5.88	–	–	5.09	–	–	–
FI		0.44 ± 0.01	0.45	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.48	0.41
CI		1.29 ± 0.04	1.32	1.25	1.29	1.27	1.32	1.30
SI ₁		0.87 ± 0.02	0.89	0.86	0.90	0.89	0.90	0.98
SI ₂		1.13 ± 0.05	1.18	1.08	1.17	1.14	1.19	1.28
FLI		1.07 ± 0.04	1.10	1.02	1.03	1.02	1.05	1.17
PI ₁		1.61 ± 0.04	1.66	1.58	1.86	1.81	1.87	1.00
PI ₂		0.67 ± 0.02	0.69	0.64	0.67	0.65	0.69	0.64
PI ₃		0.33 ± 0.01	0.34	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.30	–
PPI ₁		1.09 ± 0.06	1.16	1.05	1.08	1.06	1.11	1.00
PPI ₂		0.96 ± 0.03	1.00	0.93	1.00	0.92	1.05	0.90
PPI ₃		1.43 ± 0.02	1.44	1.40	1.48	1.44	1.50	1.41
PPI ₄		0.48 ± 0.02	0.49	0.47	0.43	0.42	0.44	–
ESLI		0.39 ± 0.04	0.42	0.34	0.42	0.41	0.43	0.52
ESDI	1.45 ± 0.14	1.61	1.36	1.18	1.14	1.21	0.95	

sides reticulate; postpetiole sub-globular, longitudinally rugulose, without punctures. Gaster smooth and shiny.

Short sub-decumbent hairs on all over the head, more dense on sides. Long erect hairs on dorsum of head, clypeus, mesosoma, petiole, postpetiole and gaster. Short suberect hairs are also present on gaster. Head, mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole and gaster brownish black; mandibles, antennae and legs reddish brown.

Differential diagnosis. *Myrmica religiosa* sp. nov. shows some intermediate characters between *Myrmica inezae* and other species of the *inezae* species group (promesonotal dorsum and sides of the pronotum with transverse rugosity), but longitudinal sculpture of the propodeum clearly separates it from *M. inezae*. *M. religiosa* sp. nov. differs from *M. curvispinosa* sp. nov. by a smooth postpetiolar dorsum and a straight propodeal spine, as in *M. curvispinosa* sp. nov. the postpetiolar dorsum is longitudinally rugulose and has a curved propodeal spine. Both *Myrmica kothiensis* sp. nov. and *Myrmica religiosa* sp. nov. have longitudinal rugae on the metanotal groove and longitudinal rugulae on the postpetiole, but *Myrmica religiosa* sp. nov. differs from the latter by the very long propodeal spines and long petiole: ESLI 0.37–0.44, PI₁ 1.73 and ESDI 1.19–1.24 vs. ESLI 0.32–0.35, PI₁ 1.62 and ESDI 1.41–1.71 in *Myrmica kothiensis* sp. nov.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to its type locality Chaurangi khal (Nachiketa taal) which is of religious glory. The famous worship place of Nachiketa, the child protagonist in ancient Hindu fable.

Ecology. *Myrmica religiosa* sp. nov. has been collected by hand under stones in a dry forested area of Chourangi khal. The forest is inhabited by the *Cedrus*, Oak and *Rhododendron*, surrounded by patches of *Pinus*. The area has numerous anthropogenic activities.

The recorded temperature and humidity at the collection site was as 30 °C and 65%.

Key for the identification of species of the *Myrmica inezae* species group (workers)

(*M. mixta* Radchenko et Elmes is known only from gyne and excluded from the key).

- 1 Whole mesosoma dorsum or at least part of it with coarse transverse rugae. Propodeal spines comparatively shorter (ESLI < 0.45) 2.
 - Mesosoma dorsum with sinuous rugae and coarse reticulations, but never transverse rugae. Propodeal spines longer (ESLI 0.52) – North-eastern Pakistan *M. rigatoi* Radchenko et Elmes
- 2 (1) Whole mesosoma dorsum with transverse rugae. – India: Himachal Pradesh *M. inezae* Forel.
 - Part of mesosoma dorsum with transverse rugosity. 3
- 3 (2) Petiolar node with coarse transversally concentric rugae. Part of the pronotum with longitudinal rugae. Petiole with a very long peduncle (PI₁ > 1.86). – India: Jammu and Kashmir *M. radchenkoi* Bharti et Sharma.
 - Petiolar node never with transverse rugae. Pronotum either reticulate or with transverse coarse rugae, but never with longitudinal rugae. Petiole with comparatively short peduncle (PI₁ < 1.78) 4