vertical, anterior margin about as high as midpoint of the posterior node margin, node highest posterad with rounded dorsum, posterior margin inclined, with strong convexity basad; in dorsal view node trapezoidal, with the anterior margin narrower than the posterior margin, longer than wide; lateral margin broadly convex, anterior and posterior margins weakly convex. Subpetiolar process trapezoidal in lateral view. Gaster elongate, a distinct constriction with a row of short longitudinal ridges in it separates first and second gastral segments. Tibiae without setae on external face close to apex.

Sculpture: Cephalic dorsum mostly densely punctate, punctures becoming dispersed posteriorly; malar space reticulate; clypeus with longitudinal to oblique striae, which are more pronounced laterally. Antennae covered with dense piligerous punctulae. Mandible dorsal surface smooth and shiny with scattered punctures, mandible with laterobasal sulcus. Mesosoma mostly smooth and shiny, covered with a few scattered piligerous punctures; propleuron smooth and shining with sparse punctures, mesopleuron rugulose, katepisternum sulcate along mesometapleural suture; metapleuron mostly smooth and shining, propodeum rugose posteroventrally. Metanotal groove with cross-ribs; propodeal declivity transversely striate. Node and gaster polished, smooth and shiny.

Vestiture: Body with abundant suberect to erect hairs, no appressed pubescence. Scape with long abundant suberect hairs and smaller sparse subdecumbent hairs.

Colour: Body colour mostly black, with antennae, mandibles, legs, and gastral apex brown.

ETYMOLOGY

The species is named in honour of John E. Lattke, in recognition of his significant contribution to the genus *Leptogenys.*

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Andretta, the type locality of this species, falls within the Shivalik range of the Northwest Himalayas and is largely devoid of leaf litter. The surrounding habitat is mainly tea gardens and pine forests. The species was found at the roadside, nesting in soil on a stone embankment, and the foraging workers were collected during the evening.

COMPARATIVE NOTES

This new species most resembles the Chinese *Leptogenys mengzii* Xu, 2000 but can be easily separated by a shorter scape, surpassing the posterior cephalic border by one-fifth of its length (one-third in *L. mengzii*), and a mesosoma without any rugae (cf. longitudinal rugae in *L. mengzii*). Among the Indian *Leptogenys*, it to some extent resembles *L. jeanettei* Tiwari, 2000 but can be easily distinguished by the longer-than-wide petiolar node (broader-than-long in *L. jeanettei*) and smooth shiny mesosomal dorsum (densely punctate in *L. jeannettei*).

***Leptogenys transitionis* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 4-9)

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype (worker) from India, Himachal Pradesh, Sirmaur District, Lwasa, 1200 m a.s.l., 30.7394°N 77.1528°E, 13 October 2008, hand picking, coll. Aijaz A. Wachkoo. Holotype deposited in Punjabi University Patiala Ant Collection (PUPAC), Patiala, India.

Paratypes: 9 workers and 1 ergatogyne queen, with same data as holotype. Paratypes deposited in Punjabi University Patiala Ant Collection (PUPAC), Patiala, India. One paratype will be deposited at BMNH, Natural History Museum, London, UK and one at California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKER

Measurements of holotype worker: TL 6.68; HL 1.36; HW 0.92; ML 0.68; EL 0.23; SL 1.41; PW 0.74; WL 2.20; PL 0.61; PDW 0.46; PH 0.69 mm. Indices: CI 68; MI 74; OI 25; SI 153; LPI 113; DPI 75.

Measurement of paratype workers: Range of nine workers: TL 6.38-6.69; HL 1.29-1.36; HW 0.88-0.92; ML0.64-0.67; EL 0.21-0.23; SL 1.36-1.41;