

Illustrations were prepared as line drawings and as Extended Focus (Z-stack) Images (EFIs). Line drawings were prepared using a Wacom Intuos3 Pen Tablet; EFI illustrations were prepared using a Nikon D70s digital SLR camera with 105mm macro lens and 2x teleconverter, and CombineZ software.

Measurements of specimens were made using an Olympus SZ51 stereomicroscope at 80× magnification and an Olympus U-OCMC 10/100XY stage micrometer, and these were used to calculate various indices.

### Morphometrics

**HL** – length of head in dorsal view, measured in a straight line from the anterior point of median clypeal margin to mid-point of the occipital margin; **HW** – maximum width of head in dorsal view behind the eyes; **FW** – minimum width of frons between the frontal lobes; **FLW** – maximum width between external borders of the frontal lobes; **SL** – maximum straight-line length of antennal scape as seen in profile; **AL** – diagonal length of the mesosoma seen in profile, from the neck shield to the posterior margin of metapleural lobes; **HTL** – length of tibia of hind leg; **PNW** – maximum width of pronotum from above in dorsal view; **PL** – maximum length of petiole from above; **PPL** – maximum length of postpetiole from above; **PW** – maximum width of petiole from above; **PPW** – maximum width of postpetiole from above; **PH** – maximum height of petiole in profile; **PPH** – maximum height of postpetiole in profile; **ESL** – maximum length of propodeal spine in profile; **ESD** – distance between tips of propodeal spine from above.

### Indices

Cephalic Index  $CI = HL/HW \times 100$ ; Frontal Index  $FI = FW/HW \times 100$ ; Frontal Lobe Index  $FLI = FLW/FW \times 100$ ; Scape Index<sub>1</sub>  $SI_1 = SL/HL \times 100$ ; Scape Index<sub>2</sub>  $SI_2 = SL/HW \times 100$ ; Petiole Index  $PI = PL/PH \times 100$ ; Postpetiole Index  $PPI = PPL/PPH \times 100$ ; Spine-length Index  $ESLI = ESL/HW \times 100$ ; Spine Distance Index  $ESDI = ESD/ESL \times 100$ ; Hind-tibia Index  $HTI = HTL/HW \times 100$ .

### DESCRIPTION

*Aphaenogaster iranica* Kiran et Alipanah, sp. nov. (Figs 1-2)

### WORKER

Measurements: HL 1.15-1.43 (1.43); HW 0.81-0.98 (0.95); FW 0.20-0.26 (0.26); FLW 0.28-0.31 (0.30); SL 1.58-1.79 (1.79); AL 1.75-2.13 (2.13); HTL 1.25-1.67 (1.67); PNW 0.54-0.70 (0.70); PL 0.46-0.58 (0.51); PPL 0.30-0.35 (0.34); PW 0.18-0.22 (0.22); PPW 0.25-0.30 (0.30); PH 0.26-0.33 (0.30); PPH 0.25-0.30 (0.30); ESL 0.10-0.15 (0.10); ESD 0.18-0.24 (0.22); CI 143-150 (150); FI 25-27 (27); FLI 119-127 (119);  $SI_1$  126-132 (126);  $SI_2$  188-191 (188); PI 167-184 (168); PPI 112-121 (112); ESLI 10-15 (10); ESDI 157-225 (225); HTI 153-176 (176) (n=4; all measurements are in mm. Measurements of holotype are shown in brackets.)

Head distinctly longer than broad in full-face view, almost oval, broadest in front of eyes and with almost parallel sides here; behind eye sides gradually curving to the occipital margin, occipital corners indistinct. Frontal carina short, barely reaching anterior level of eyes. Anterior margin of the clypeus with shallow median notch. Eyes relatively small, situated at the middle of the head. Mandibles elongate-triangular, longitudinally striated, masticatory margin with 7 uneven teeth. Scape long, surpassing occipital margin by 1/3 of its length. Funicular segments 2–6, nearly 3 times longer than broad, antennal club indistinct.

Head surface shiny, dorsum of head weakly sculptured anteriorly, sculpture gradually reduced towards occiput, which is completely smooth and shiny. Genae with fine longitudinal striae, running to the upper level of eyes. Frontal triangle dull, with 2 longitudinal striae. Central part of clypeus delineated by very weak and sparse longitudinal striae.

Mesosoma long and slender. Mesonotum distinctly rises above the level of pronotum in profile, metanotal groove shallow. Propodeal spines stout, widest at the base; length 2/5 the distance between their tips. Pronotum smooth