



**Fig. 4.** Mesosoma of *Aphaenogaster gibbosa*, lateral view (From Brive, France, leg. and det. C. Galkowski).

features. The head of *A. iranica* is concolorous with the mesosoma. The mesosoma is generally smooth and shiny; only the sides of the mesosoma are distinctly punctate, and the propodeum has very fine transverse striation. Propodeal spines are short, the length only 2/5 of the distance between their tips, and directed mostly upwards; mesonotum anteriorly without tubercles; whole body without decumbent pilosity (present only on the four apical funicular joints). In contrast, the head of *A. rothneyi* is darker than the mesosoma; the whole mesosoma is subopaque, finely reticulated and striated, the propodeum coarsely transversely rugulose. The propodeal spines are quite long, as long as the distance between their tips, and directed backwards; the mesonotum anteriorly with tubercles; the whole body with sparse decumbent pilosity.

*Aphaenogaster iranica* resembles *A. cristata*. The mesonotum of *A. iranica* is raised above the level of pronotum in profile, and the postpetiole is only slightly longer than broad. In contrast the mesonotum of *A. cristata* has, in the middle of its anterior margin, a raised transverse crest-like pinched projection, and the postpetiole is almost twice as long as broad.

The other closely related species, *A. januschevi*, has a mesonotum only slightly raised above the level of the pronotum in profile, the dorsum of mesonotum with longitudinal

striae, and a deep metanotal groove, while the mesonotum of *A. iranica* is strongly raised above the level of pronotum in profile, the dorsum of the mesonotum has only a few posterior striae, and a shallow metanotal groove.

*Aphaenogaster iranica* also distinctly differs from *A. tipuna* and *A. fabulosa* by the distinctly longer funicular segments 2–6, which are nearly 3 times as long as broad (less than 2 times longer than broad in *A. tipuna*, and not more than 2.5 times in *A. fabulosa*). Additionally, the petiole and postpetiole of *A. iranica* are distinctly lower than in both these species.

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#### REFERENCES

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