

***Myrmica alperti* Elmes et Radchenko, sp. n.**

Material. Holotype worker, Nepal, 3200 m, Thodung, 2–9.04.1973 (J. Martens), Coniferenwald, “*M. indica* Weber det Radchenko and Elmes”, [6] (NHMB). Paratypes: 14 workers with same labels; 9 workers, Nepal, Jiri-Thodung, 28.05.1976 (W. Wittmer and C. Baroni Urbani), “*M. indica* Weber det Radchenko and Elmes” (one with abdomen missing, not measured); 1 worker, Nepal, Shiralaybis, Jiri-grat, 2200 m, 8.06.1973 (J. Martens), “*M. indica* Weber det Radchenko and Elmes” (NHMB, SIZK, ELMES).

Workers (fig. 7, a-e)

Head longer than broad, with convex sides, nearly straight occipital margin and rounded occipital corners, its upper latero-ventral corners pointed; anterior clypeal margin feebly convex, notched medially. Mandibles with 8–9 teeth. Frontal carinae usually curved outwards to merge with the rugae, which surround antennal sockets (but this character is somewhat variable between specimens). Frons wide, frontal lobes not extended, somewhat raised vertically (i. e. perpendicular to the head surface). Scape of moderate length, equal or only slightly longer than head length, gradually and weakly curved at the base.

Alitrunk relatively short (here and below — compare to correspondent features of related species, discussed in this paper), with feebly convex promesonotal dorsum (seen in profile), promesonotal suture indistinct (seen from above); metanotal groove distinct, but not very deep; metapleural lobes do not projecting apically, rounded or at most slightly angulated, do not form sharp teeth. Propodeal spines relatively short, widened at the base, straight or slightly curved down and pointed.

Petiole relatively short and wide, its anterior surface strongly concave, node dorsum feebly convex; postpetiole fig-shaped (seen from above), somewhat shorter than high.

Frons with coarse longitudinal sinuous rugae, at least six between frontal carinae level with the eyes, posterior and lateral parts of head dorsum with coarse reticulation. Clypeus with coarse longitudinal rugae, mandibles rugulose. Alitrunk dorsum with coarse reticulation, sides of alitrunk with coarse sinuous longitudinal rugae. Petiole with coarse, short, sinuous longitudinal rugae and reticulation, postpetiole with less coarse longitudinal, slightly sinuous rugosity. Surface on body between rugae smooth and shiny.

Occipital margin with not abundant, quite long suberect hairs, sides of head above eyes without or at most with 1–2 such hairs; alitrunk and waist with sparse long hairs. Scape and tibiae with subdecumbent hairs.

Body reddish-brown to dark brown, appendages somewhat lighter, but not contrasting with the colour of body.

Measurements see table 1.

Etymology. This species is dedicated to Dr. Gary Alpert of Harvard University USA, who collected the new material that precipitated this study.

Distribution and ecology. Known only from the Thodung region of Nepal, where it lives between 2000 and 3000 m asl. Nothing is known of its ecology.

***Myrmica indica* Weber, 1950**

Material. Lectotype worker (designated by Radchenko and Elmes, 1998), [India] Tonglu, Darjeeling distr., E. Himalayas, 10,000 ft., 22.04. [19]10 (C. W. Beebe) (MCZ). Paralectotype: worker, with same label (MCZ). Additional material: specimens det. as *M. indica* by A. G. Radchenko and G. W. Elmes (1998): 12 workers, Nepal, Phulchoki, 2600 m, 11–14.06.1976 (W. Wittmer and C. Baroni Urbani); 3 workers, Nepal, Chordung, Jiri, 2900 m, 1.04.1973 (J. Martens); 1 worker, Nepal-364, Prov. Taplejung, Simbua Khola, vic. Lassetham, 3000–3150 m, 15.05.1988 (J. Martens and W. Schawaller); 1 worker, Nepal-324, Prov. Dorhar Kharka, 10.4. 88, 2700 m (J. Martens and W. Schawaller); 1 worker, Zentral-Nepal, Zw. Tare-Pati, u. Gasaikunde, Sept. — Okt. 1971 (H. Franz); 1 worker, Darjeeling Distr., India, Tiger Hill, 2500 m, 27.05.1975 (W. Wittmer); 10 workers, Bhutan, Thimphu, 31.05. Nat. — Hist. Museum Basel — Bhutan Expedition, 1972. Plus the following Makalu material determined here as *M. indica*: 11 workers, NPL 24, Sankhawalava Maghang Kharka, Makalu Barun Conservation Area, 27°35'36.6" N 87°7'20.7" E, 2548 m, 5.11.2005 (D. Emmett and Subedi), MK 21–283 Winkler trap; 8 workers, NPL 27, Sankhawalava Maghang Kharka, Makalu Barun Conservation Area, 27°34'9.1" N 87°7'30" E, 2634 m, 5.11.2005 (Alpert, Alonso and