

angle, which is widely rounded, but edentate part of masticatory margin with sharp cutting edge. Maxillary and labial palps are invisible in the specimen.

Mesosoma relatively short, stout, with well developed promesonotal suture and distinct metanotal groove. Pronotum with two short, blunt horn-like teeth; propodeal spines not very long, sharp, somewhat curved up at tips, slightly widened at the base, directed backward and upward, divergent when seen from above. Petiole much longer than height, with long anterior peduncle; node well developed, with rounded dorsum; dorsal surface of petiole delineated by a pair of fine while distinct longitudinal rims. Postpetiole subglobular, small, somewhat shorter than height, lower than petiole. Middle and hind tibiae without spur. Gaster relatively small, not specialized, as in most Myrmicinae genera; gastral shoulder absent.

Head and mesosoma with dense while not coarse foveolate sculpture, integument additionally densely punctated. Petiole with much finer reticulate-foveolate sculpture, node also with fine longitudinal rugulosity; postpetiole and gaster smooth.

Body almost hairless, suberect hairs visible only on posterior margins of gastral tergites and sternites from second to apex of gaster. Antennae and legs have no hairs.

Body and appendages reddish, gaster somewhat darker (note that the colour in amber specimens can be artificial, not corresponding with that of living ants).

Body length ca. 2.7 mm.

Gynes and males unknown.

Measurements (in mm) and indices: HL 0.69, HW 0.61, FW 0.15, FLW 0.23, OL 0.08, SL 0.53, AL 0.85, PNW 0.37, ESL 0.13, HTL 0.40, PL 0.35, PH 0.19, PPL 0.13, PPH 0.16, GL 0.69 mm; CI 1.13, FI 0.37, FLI 1.55, SI₁ 0.77, SI₂ 0.87, PI 1.86, PPI 0.83, ESLI 0.22, OI 0.13.

DISCUSSION

Based on the several important diagnostic features of the described genus (e.g. 12-segmented antennae with 3-segmented apical club, structure of clypeus and frontal lobes, absence of gastral shoulder), as well as on the general appearance of the specimen, including character of body sculpture, we place *Boltonidris* in the tribe Stenammini (*sensu* Bolton 2003). It does not seem to be a highly specialized genus when compared to many Stenammini genera that have, for example, well developed antennal scrobes (e.g. *Lachnomyrmex* Wheeler, *Lordomyrma* Emery, *Dacatinops* Brown et Wilson), sometimes combining with unusual shape of body hairs (e.g. *Calypatomyrmex* Emery), or multituberculate head and mesosoma (*Proatta* Forel). On the other hand, *Boltonidris* is superficially similar to

some of the non-specialized Stenammini genera, such as *Stenamma*, *Rogeria* or *Tetheamyrmex* Bolton, but it possesses several autapomorphies.

To our mind, the most evolutionary important are modifications of the cranio-mandibular system. First of all, mandibles of *Boltonidris* are widely triangular, rather stout, with quite long masticatory margin with only two teeth, the longer apical and a very short preapical. At the same time, the edentate part of the masticatory margin has a sharp cutting edge, so that the mandibles seems to be adapted to cutting rather than to crushing or squashing something. Additionally, the shape of the head also demonstrates some trend to specialization: the head dorsum has a well developed longitudinal medial groove, with the somewhat depressed areas lateral to the frontal carinae (that resemble incipient or vestigial antennal scrobes), and with the finely swollen postero-lateral parts of head close to the occipital corners. Such specialization of the head leads to increasing the capacity of the head capsule and reflects stronger development of the mandibular muscles that are distally articulated to the inner surface of the head capsule near the occipital corners. Similar variant of the cranio-mandibular system was called by Dlussky and Fedoseeva (1988) the "cutting type". The extreme development of such a system is characteristic of leaf-cutting ants (tribe Attini).

The less evolutionary significant autapomorphy of *Boltonidris* is the presence of the pair of short and blunt horn-like teeth on the pronotum – a feature not found in any other Stenammini genera (except for the multiple tubercles seen in *Proatta*).

If our placement *Boltonidris* in the tribe Stenammini is correct, this is the third known member of the tribe in the late Eocene European ambers (together with *Stenamma* and *Vollenhovia*). *Boltonidris* certainly cannot be considered as the ancestral genus for the tribe since it has the many specialized morphological features mentioned above. Thus, we may only expect that ancestral Stenammini are much older than late Eocene time (ca. 40 Mya), and probably arose at least in the middle or even early Eocene.

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