

angular. Clypeus approximately twice as broad as long, with a median lobe which bears a slight impression or emargination at the middle of its anterior border. Mandible moderately large, subtriangular. Eye neither strongly convex nor large, its greatest diameter 0.15–0.17 mm., placed approximately twice its greatest diameter from the base of the mandible. Dorsal surface of the prothorax in profile meeting that of the anterior part of the mesothorax in an almost even convexity except for a slight elevation at the promesonotal suture; posterior half of the mesothorax inclined sharply and almost unbrokenly to meet the well-pronounced mesoepinotal suture which is approximately 0.10 mm. in length and almost equally as deep; epinotum perceptibly but not strongly convex in its basal half, epinotal spines seldom, if ever, as long as the space separating the base of each spine. Anterior surface of petiole in profile meeting the dorsal surface of the petiole to form a subangular node; post-petiole larger and more voluminous than the petiole, also more convex dorsally. Gaster from above oval, narrowest apically.

Body largely smooth and shiny with the following exceptions; mandibles longitudinally striated, cheek longitudinally or circularly rugulose, much of the dorsal surface of the head finely punctulate, especially the anterior half, the punctulate sculpturing extending even between the rugulae of the cheek; mesopleurum and side of epinotum rugulose-punctulate, or punctulate.

Body hairs moderately abundant, long, slender, suberect to erect, yellowish or grayish depending upon the light, the hairs present even on the gula but not forming a beard or psammophore. Pilosity on scape and leg shorter and more reclinate.

Body light brown or pale yellowish brown with apparently even lighter scape and leg, the color somewhat variable according to the density of the light.

There are no cotype workers of this species. My description of the worker is based on individuals from the localities listed below.

Among the individuals studied there was a noticeable amount of variation. The heads of some were longer and more slender than those of others, the occipital lobe and posterior border of the head more rounded, the elevation of the promesonotal suture higher, the basal surface of the epinotum perceptibly but weakly convex throughout, the epinotal spines occasionally nearly as long as the distance separating the base of each, the dorsal surface of the petiolar node more convex, and the dorsal surface of the epinotum faintly punctulate almost subopaque.

At present there is no other New Guinea *Aphaenogaster* whose worker should be mistaken for that of *pythia*. The characters however by which *pythia* and *lustrans* can be distinguished are given in the preceding key. In Australia *pythia* is more apt to be mistaken for *longiceps* (F. Sm.). The worker of *pythia* can be distinguished from that of *longiceps* by its proportionally shorter and more subrectangular head, the occipital lobe of which is subangular, and the posterior border almost straight; and also by its less heavily sculptured epinotum, in addition to other characters.

Female.

Length 10.5 mm. Head similar to that of worker; length 1.6 mm., greatest width 1.7–1.8 mm., occipital rim or flange vestigial. Greatest diameter of eye 0.35–0.40 mm., the eye placed approximately its greatest diameter from the base of the mandible and at a very perceptible angle with the longitudinal axis of the head. Lateral ocellus placed at a space from the inner border of the eye equivalent to four times the greatest