

THREE NEW SPECIES OF THE PALAEO-TROPICAL ARBOREAL¹ ANT GENUS *CATAULACUS* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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ABSTRACT: Three new species of ants in the genus *Cataulacus* are described and illustrated: *boltoni* (NIGERIA), *mckeyi* (CAMEROUN) and *pompom* (MALAYA). Each is compared with previously described, related, species.

The Old World arboreal ant genus *Cataulacus* was revised by Bolton (1974). Since then several undescribed species have been discovered. The first of these was sent to me by Mr. Doyle McKey who has conducted some studies on its ecology. Two additional species were sent by Bolton for inclusion in this paper.

The descriptions which follow are patterned closely after those developed by Bolton in his revision. One terminological difference should be noted: I prefer to use *mesosoma* rather than *alitrunk*. The latter is descriptively inappropriate in discussing the wingless thorax of worker ants. Although the *mesosoma* of higher Hymenoptera actually consists of the true *mesosoma* + the first abdominal segment (i.e., the propodeum) use of the broad term seems not to have generated any confusion. In the descriptions the abbreviation WL (Weber's Length) is used rather than AL (Alitrunk Length).

Special note must be made of the cephalic and mesosomal hairs. In the descriptions I have described the appearance of the hairs in terms similar to those used by Bolton. The terminology applies to these hairs as they appear under an ordinary dissecting microscope. When studied with a scanning electron microscope (SEM), the hairs are truly bizarre (Figs. 4, 5, 11, 21, 22, 23, 26). This seems the most rational manner of dealing with these hairs, for access to a SEM is by no means universal and to describe the hairs as they are would only confuse matters.

Cataulacus boltoni NEW SPECIES

Figures 1-8

DIAGNOSIS: *Worker:* Dorsal cephalic hairs clavate to subspatulate; propodeal rugae transverse; sides of pronotum not marginate.

DESCRIPTION: *Holotype Worker.* TL 2.74; HL 0.76; HW 0.72; CI 95; EL 0.38; OI 53; IOD 0.53; SL 0.37; SI 52; PW 0.50; WL 0.78; MTL 0.28.

Occipital crest absent; occipital margin raised, with low, blunt denticles, one on occipital corner and one mesad of it, several located behind eye. Preocular denticle small, separated from eye by a small gap. Pronotum not marginate laterally, humeral angle dentiform; side with minute denticle at about midlength and a

larger one at promesonotal junction. Mesonotum and propodeum not marginate, with a couple of widely spaced, minute denticles on each side; propodeal spines short and bluntly rounded apically. Promesonotal and mesometanotal grooves absent on dorsum. Sides of propodeum, in dorsal view, distinctly convergent posteriorly, those of mesonotum straight, more strongly convergent and separated from propodeum by a narrow V-shaped notch. First gastric tergum not marginate at sides.

Dorsum of head moderately shiny, finely rugoreticulate, the interspaces finely and densely reticulate-punctate, the punctures shallow. Mesosomal dorsum less shiny, with irregular close-set, longitudinally oriented rugulae, strongest at sides, those on posterior part of mesonotum and base of propodeum sharp, transverse; interspaces densely reticulate-punctate. Dorsal surface of petiole and postpetiole sharply longitudinally rugose. First gastric tergum finely and densely reticulate-punctate throughout, no longitudinal rugulae at base.

Hairs on clypeus and cephalic dorsum bizarre, stout and short to medium, clavate to subspatulate. Hairs on meso- and metasoma numerous, stout and medium length on dorsum and sides, slender on venter.

TYPE MATERIAL: *Holotype worker*, NIGERIA: Gambari, 24 May 1975 (B. Taylor), in British Museum (Natural History).

ETYMOLOGY: This species is dedicated to Mr. Barry Bolton, who recognized the novelty of this species and sent it to me for inclusion in this paper.

DISCUSSION: This species is a member of the TENUIS GROUP of Bolton (1974) and is readily distinguished from other group members by the combination of bizarre cephalic hairs, transversely rugose propodeal base and nonmarginate mesosomal dorsum. In this last character it is most like *vorticus* Bolton, to

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