



FIGS. 1, 2.—*Pristomyrmex wilsoni* sp. n., holotype worker: (1) head and pronotal outline, frontal view, right antenna and pilosity omitted; (2) mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole, lateral view. Scale line 1 mm.

Dimensions (holotype cited first): TL ca. 4.8, 4.5-4.9 mm; HL 1.13, 1.08-1.13 mm; HW 1.17, 1.11-1.18 mm; CI 104, 103-105; SL 1.40, 1.32-1.41 mm; SI 120, 119-122; PW 0.66, 0.64-0.68 mm; WL 1.29, 1.25-1.33 mm; propodeal spine L 0.87, 0.83-0.87 mm; petiole L 0.53, 0.50-0.53 mm; postpetiole height 0.45, 0.44-0.45 mm.

General features as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Mandibles with two strong adjacent apical teeth and a broad truncated basal one, separated by a broad diastema. Clypeus with a median longitudinal carina; its anterior border distinctly dentate in the middle and with two blunt denticles on each side. Antennal scrobes barely depressed, lacking a ventral carina. Scapes exceedingly long; when laid in the scrobes, with the head in frontal view, they exceed the level of the median occipital border by about 1/3 their length. Proportions of funicular segments as shown in Figure 1, a 3-segmented club distinctly differentiated. Eyes strongly convex, almost hemispheroidal. Ocular index (maximum eye diameter $\times 100/\text{HW}$) 17-18. Mesosomal structure as shown in figures. Pronotal dorsum truncated behind its anterior neck portion. Mesosomal spines exceptionally long. "Pronotal spine length", measured as prescribed by Taylor (1965, p.37), about $0.42-0.44 \times \text{HW}$. When the mesosoma is viewed from directly above the pronotal and propodeal spines diverge from the midline at angles of about 60 and 30 degrees respectively (these angles are means for the 8 specimens). Promesonotal and mesometanotal sutures lacking on mesosomal dorsum. Petiolar and postpetiolar nodes slightly longer than broad in dorsal view; their apices almost conical, narrowly rounded above.

Body generally smooth and shining, almost entirely without sculpturation; a few faint vestiges of longitudinal striae on mandibles. Underside of head transversely ribbed along postgenal suture, and with a few somewhat vestigial broad foveolate punctures on the genal and postgenal areas.

Mandibular hairs moderately abundant, decumbent, ca 0.1-0.2 mm long. Cranial hairs erect to suberect, ca 0.15-0.35 mm long, the longest on frons and occiput, shortest on genal and postgenal areas; generally scattered at intervals of ca 0.1 mm, except for a mid-dorsal strip on the frons, and the antennal scrobes, which lack pilosity; the longest frontal hairs frequently crinkled. Pilosity of mesosoma and nodes as shown in Figure 2. Gaster completely naked, except for a few short hairs at its apex. Antennae and legs abundantly clothed with suberect hairs ca 0.1-0.15 mm long.

Colouration much as in *P. wheeleri* Taylor (see colour plate in Taylor 1965) but with the mesosoma somewhat darker and duller in colour, and without the darkly infuscated gastric apex. Head very dark umber brown, mesosoma dull dark golden brown, apices of spines lighter. Antennae, legs and metasoma (petiole, postpetiole and gaster) lighter golden brown, the first gastric tergite especially lustrous.

Comments

This remarkable species is easily distinguished in *Pristomyrmex* by its exceptionally developed mesosomal armament, combined with a general lack of foveolate sculpturation, and very elongate scapes. The affinities of *P. wilsoni* are not clear, but it could be an aberrant descendant from stock near the ancestry of the *quadridentatus* species group.

Pristomyrmex quadridentatus (Ern. André)

This species shows marked colour variation. Typically it is self-coloured golden brown, but there is a bicoloured form, with contrasting dark brown meso-