



FIGS. 1, 2.—*Epitritus murphyi* Taylor, sp. n., holotype worker: (1) head, frontal view, right antenna and some pilosity omitted; (2) mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole, lateral view. Scale line 0.50 mm.

HW 0.53, 0.45 mm; CI 110, 113; ML 0.20, 0.17 mm; MI 42, 43; WL 0.54, 0.45 mm; scape L (measured from apex of scape to the point of its subbasal angle) 0.27, 0.23 mm; funiculus L 0.40, 0.35 mm. General features as shown in Figures 1 and 2, cephalic outline much as in *E. hexamerus* Brown, but with the cranium relatively broad. Centre of frons feebly convex, sloping at sides to the broadly concave anterior portions of the occipital lobes. Posterior frontal portion of head traversed by a strong obtuse ridge (shown as a dotted line in Fig. 1), behind which the posterior parts of the frons and occipital lobes slope abruptly back towards the occipital border. Mandibles of "inverted" type characteristic of the genus; like those of *E. hexamerus*, but with four pre-apical teeth. Subbasal lobes of scapes well developed, acutely angled at *ca* 40°. Funiculi 5-segmented, the apical segment slightly longer than the others together.

Pronotal dorsum and anterior part of mesonotum forming an almost circular disc *ca* 0.6x as wide as head; the two sclerites separated by a shallow transverse sulcus, which joins a weaker median longitudinal pronotal sulcus in a "Y" shaped configuration. Mesonotum saddle-shaped, its posterior portion slightly larger, more inflated and more convex than the anterior part. Propodeal, petiolar and postpetiolar profiles as shown in Figure 2. Petiolar node about 1.3x wider than long, approximately 0.45x as wide as pronotum and 0.7x as wide as postpetiole. The latter transversely ellipsoidal, almost 1.5x as wide as long, and *ca* 0.6x as wide as gaster. Spongiform appendages massively developed ventrally and laterally on both petiole and postpetiole, with narrow borders along posterodorsal margins of both segments. Gaster with a narrow, almost carinate, transverse anterodorsal spongiform margin, and a small thin anteroventral flap.

Body and appendages, except postpetiole and gaster, fairly evenly and finely granulosly sculptured and non-reflective. Postpetiole dully shining, irregularly and very finely punctate. Gaster generally smooth and shining, its dorsum with coarse basal longitudinal costulation extending about 0.25x the length of the first tergite.

Head with specialized pilosity of orbicular hairs, as in other *Epitritus* species, but these are relatively small (about 0.02 mm long) and less abundant than usual, being restricted to the convex median portion of the frons. Clypeus with minute bristle-like hairs posteriorly, grading to orbicular hairs on its anterior surfaces. Inner mandibular borders each overlain by five conspicuous linear-spatulate hairs which lie across the basal teeth; a pair of similar hairs on anterior clypeal border (Fig. 1). Pilosity of scapes as figured. Specialized pilosity entirely lacking on mesosoma. Petiole and postpetiole with a few small orbicular hairs along anterodorsal edges of their lateral spongiform masses (Fig. 2). Dorsum of gaster with scattered, erect, narrowly clavate hairs about 0.05 to 0.08 mm long. These number approximately 25 on the holotype and about 20 on the smaller paratype; they are scattered irregularly on the first tergite of the holotype, but are more regularly arranged on the paratype, to form three transverse and four longitudinal rows. Second and third gastral tergites of both specimens each with a single transverse row of similar but smaller hairs. Colour fairly even light-medium ferruginous, vestiture pale ferruginous.

The holotype and paratype are closely similar in all features except those noted above.