Comments

Epitritus murphyi is easily distinguished among the known species of its genus. *E. argiolus* has only four funicular segments, a narrower head, and relatively weak development of the petiolar and postpetiolar spongiform appendages. The African *laticeps* has different mandibular structure and lacks spongiform appendages, except for vestiges on the postpetiole (Brown 1962, figs. 1-4). *E. hexamerus*, the Japanese species, is most like *murphyi*, but it differs in the nature and distribution of the vestiture, the structure of the antennal scapes, the mesonotal profile, and the form of the propodeal lamellae (Brown 1958, figs. 1-2). *E. murphyi* runs to *hexamerus* in Brown's 1962 key to the *Epitritus* species.

Dysedrognathus gen. n.
(Figs. 3, 4)

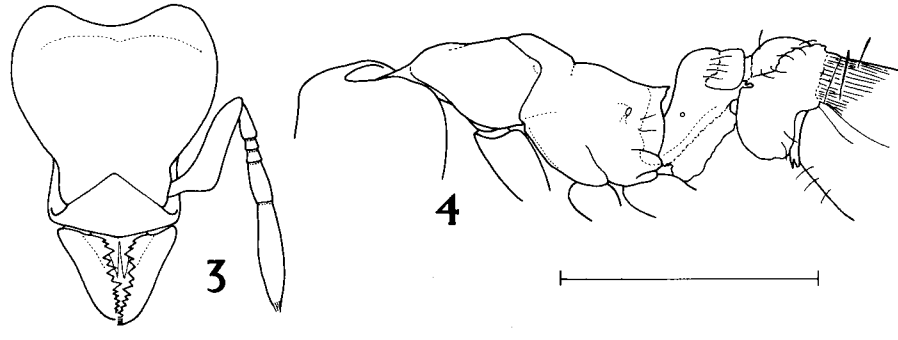
Type species: Dysedrognathus extemenus Taylor, sp. n. described below.

Diagnosis, worker. Subfamily Myrmicinae, tribe Dacetini. Close to *Epitritus* Emery 1869 (*sensu* Brown 1949), and falling within the scope of its diagnosis in all details except the mandibular structure, which is very different.

Mandibles fairly elongate-triangular (almost as long, relatively, as those of the *Epitritus* species), their inner and basal borders meeting at rounded angles of about 90°. Each with a small area (delimited by a dotted line in Fig. 3) at the junction of its median and posterior borders, the surface of which is roughly continuous with that of the adjacent part of the clypeus. Apart from this area the dorsal mandibular surface falls strongly away from the midline, at a slope of about 45° from the median sagittal plane of the head (when the jaws are closed). In lateral view the anterodorsal profile of each mandible is almost exactly coincident with its median border, and is strongly downcurved apically, to meet the almost horizontal line of the ventral profile. The median borders each bear a somewhat irregular series of small teeth, which diminish in size apicad, and which engage directly only at the downcurved tips of the jaws. The apposable preapical teeth are reduced to small denticles, which could be homologous with those of the inverted mandibular apices in the *Epitritus* species. The most apical denticle of each jaw is slightly enlarged, but there is no enlarged tooth interrupting the graded series between the basal teeth and the preapical denticles (i.e. a tooth possibly homologous with the spine-like subapical one seen in the *Epitritus* species apart from *laticeps*). The labrum is *Epitritus*-like, with a pair of long apical lobes.

The post-mandibular habitus of *D. extemenus* is like that of the *Epitritus* species, especially *E. argiolus*. The cephalic proportions resemble those of *argiolus*, though the cranium is more prismatic posteriorly (due mainly to the well developed transverse pre-occipital ridge, which resembles that of *E. murphyi*). The antennal funiculi are 5-segmented, like those of the extra-European *Epitritus* species. The mesosoma resembles that of *E. argiolus*, though the pronotum is differently moulded and more angular, and the mesonotum is smaller and less distinctly inflated.

The petiole, postpetiole and gaster are also constructed like those of *E. argiolus*, but the development of spongiform material on the waist segments is much more extensive and massive, resembling that of



FIGS. 3, 4.—*Dysedrognathus extemenus* Taylor, gen. et sp. n., holotype worker: (3) head, frontal view, right antenna and pilosity omitted; (4) mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole, lateral view. Scale line 0.50 mm.