

In addition one new species is described here from Nicobar Islands in Indian Ocean. This is the first record of this genus from India.

Genus *Metapone* Forel

Metapone Forel, 1911, *Rev. Suisse Zool.*, **19** : 447 ibidem, 1912, **20** : 763.

Type-species : *Metapone greeni* Forel. Original designation.

This genus is mainly characterized by having scrobed head, 11-jointed antennae, one jointed maxillary and 3-jointed labial palpi, terminally spinose or dentate middle and hind tibiae, and metatarsi.

Worker : Head subrectangular scrobed, nearly one and half times as long as broad. One jointed maxillary and 3-jointed labial palpi. Eyes small and elongate. Mandibles 4 to 5 toothed, with a large basal lobe. Ocellar pits present, ocelli absent. Clypeus large, with subrectangular anterior lobe. Scape reaching to the middle of the head, flattened and apically much dilated, funiculus dilated and clubbed. Antennae 11-segmented. Dorsum of alitrunk oblong, somewhat flattened above, submargined on the sides. Promesonotal suture very indistinct and mesoepinotal suture impressed. Petiolar node subcuboidal, rather flat above, widened behind, truncated at their ends, anteriorly with a short peduncle and its ventral surface with a large longitudinal lobe, followed by a strong tooth. Postpetiolar node broader and shorter than the petiolar node bearing on its ventral side a large tooth. Gaster oval. Femora greatly dilated. Tibiae and metatarsi short and broad.

Metapone nicobarensis, sp. nov.

(Fig. 1, a-c)

This species is close to *Metapone leae* Wheeler, by having body 6.1-6.6 mm long, mandible with 5 teeth, petiolar nodes mammalian vertebrae-like and female with similar wing venation, but it differs by having a distinct pointed ventral tooth on petiolar node, postpetiolar node finely longitudinally striate and with scattered punctures; apical tooth of mandible larger than the others; first segment of the gaster with weak scattered punctures and the female without a distinct median longitudinal groove on head.

Holotype worker : Body length 6.1 mm ; HL (head length) 1.4 mm ; HW (head width) 1.05 mm ; SL (Scape length) .38 mm ; CI (cephalic index) 75 ; SI (scape index) 36 ; PW (pronotum width) .59 mm ; PNL (petiolar node length) .5 mm ; PPNL (postpetiolar node length) .42 mm ; PH (petiole height) .84 mm ; PPH (postpetiole height) .63 mm ; DPW