Thaumatomyrmex

The five species of *Thaumatomyrmex* may be separated by means of the following key:

1. Apical teeth of closed mandibles not exceeding lateral margins of head..... 2
   Apical teeth of closed mandibles exceeding lateral margins of head..... 3
2. A basal fourth tooth on mandible lacking. Cuba.....**cochlearis** Creighton
   A basal fourth tooth on mandible present. Brazil.....**mutilatus** Mayr
3. Lateral margins of head strongly diverging anteriorly. Bolivia..**manni** Weber
   Lateral margins of head moderately divergent..... 4
4. Third tooth, when mandibles closed, barely reaching mid-line of head. Honduras.....**ferox** Mann
   Third tooth, when mandibles closed, distinctly exceeding mid-line of head. British Guiana and Trinidad.....**atrox** Weber

Thaumatomyrmex atrox, sp. nov.

(Fig. 3)

Worker.—Length about 4.4 mm. Head, between anterior clypeal margin and occiput, three-fourths as long as wide between outer margins of eyes; anterior and posterior clypeal margins convex; sides of head distinctly converging back of eyes; posterior margin concave, occipital corners smoothly rounded. Mandibles with three long, acute teeth and a rudimentary basal fourth in the form of a flattened, acute tubercle. Antennal scapes curved, distinctly exceeding occiput. Thorax from above with sides of pronotum distinctly more convex and broader than rest of thorax. Petiole from above much broader behind, with transverse posterior margin and sides converging in slight convexity to concave anterior margin. Gaster large, with truncate anterior margin. Legs moderately long and slender.

Body smooth and shining except for fine, short vermiculate impressions resembling a very sparse, appressed pubescence.

Pilosity of very sparse, obtuse and coarse reclinate hairs, most numerous and backwardly directed on gaster, shorter and appressed on appendages, becoming a finer pubescence on antennal tips.

Color shining black with pale brown appendages, including mandibles.

Described from one worker (holotype) taken by myself on Kartabo Point, at the junction of the Mazaruni and Cuyuni Rivers, British Guiana, August 20, 1935, and one worker (metatype) taken by myself in the foothills north of Tunapuna, Trinidad, B. W. I., July 29, 1935. Intensive collecting in both localities failed to reveal other workers and testifies to the extreme rarity of these archaic ants. Both specimens were among leaves and, as there were no land snails in either place, a snail-eating habit could not be inferred (cf. Creighton, 1928). It is more probable that the bizarre mandibles are used for capturing other Arthropods (cf. the myriapod-eating habit of *Emeryella schmitti* discovered by Dr. Mann (Wheeler and Mann, 1914). Similar bizarre mandibles are common in *Strumigenys* and I have found a *Strumigenys* worker carrying