

postpetiole in side view slightly over half as high as the petiolar node. Gaster ovate, anterior margin truncate, anterior angles evenly convex. Legs long and slender, the first tarsal segment longer than the following segments taken together.

Shining; head and thorax evenly and densely punctate, thorax and pedicel also feebly and shallowly rugose, gaster smooth. Pilosity of a sparse pubescence nearly absent from the body, and on the gaster in the form of minute, yellowish, appressed hairs; appendages with a sparse, yellowish pubescence. From the mouth parts project a few long hairs, of which the median one projects through the space between the mandibles over two-thirds the way to the apex.

Body dark brown, the gaster blackish brown; appendages much paler, being a light brown except on the femora and tibiae which are ivory colored.

HOLOTYPE: One worker taken March 15, 1948, north of Stanleyville, Belgian Congo, in latitude $0^{\circ} 45' N.$, longitude $25^{\circ} 15' E.$ The ant was in thick, wet leaf cover at the base of a large tree in dense rain forest.

This is a striking species in both body form and color. The thorax dovetails into the strongly emarginate head, and the slender pedicel is protected by strong epinotal spines in front and by the unusual unpaired petiolar tooth behind. The long, porrect mandibles open laterally as do those of the common tropical ponerine, *Odontomachus*, and the ant probably seeks its prey similarly with the large mandibles widespread and equipped at the apex with three long, spiniform teeth. The single long hair projecting into this space from the mouth parts doubtless acts as a trigger. When it comes into contact with the prey, which may be small insects like Collembola, sensory cells at the base are probably stimulated to cause adductor muscles operating the mandibles to close sharply and seize the prey.

Nearly to the present date *Microdaceton* has been considered to be monotypic since its description in 1913, with *exornatum* Santschi, from Zululand, being the type species. In November, 1947, Patrizi described a second species, *leakeyi*, from Olorgasali (Masai Reserve) in Kenya, based on a female.

The present species differs markedly from these. It is much smoother than *exornatum* and darker on the body though lighter on the appendages. It differs from both in having a