

blackish brown, appendages light to medium brown. Dominican Republic amber; no further locality.

Paratype workers. Five specimens in 4 amber pieces: one from Palo Quemado (Pronotal Width 1.11 mm), 4 others from Dominican amber with no further locality, 2 of which are in one piece (Pronotal Width 0.90–1.30 mm).

Hypoclinea

The modern genus *Hypoclinea* as presently defined is nearly cosmopolitan (absent in Africa) and highly diverse in anatomy and behavior. At least 15 species compose the living Neotropical fauna, almost all confined to the mainland of Mexico, Central America, and South America. The most widespread form, *H. lutosa*, occurs from Brazil to Trinidad and southern Mexico. It has also been recorded from St. Vincent in the southern part of the Lesser Antilles, where it is quite rare (Forel, 1893). *Hypoclinea* is apparently absent in the remainder of the West Indies, including all of the Greater Antilles, a circumstance giving the Dominican amber species to be described below more than ordinary biogeographic importance.

Hypoclinea primitiva, new species (Fig. 4)

Diagnosis (worker). A medium-sized (Head Width 0.6–0.7 mm), slender species with several primitive traits for *Hypoclinea* overall, including a relatively unmodified alitrunk, smoothly rounded propodeum, simple petiolar scale, and a "generalized" head shape with reference to the Dolichoderini in general. Closest in appearance to *H. germaini* of South America among living species; *germaini* differs from *primitiva*, however, in having a blunt, transverse ridge that separates the dorsal and declivitous faces of the propodeum, as well as more flattened pro- and mesonota (both of these traits are reasonably interpreted as having been derived in evolution).

The name *primitiva* alludes both to the antiquity of the species and to the set of traits just cited that are provisionally interpreted to be primitive within the genus and perhaps even in the Dolichoderinae as a whole.