

A TAXONOMIC STUDY ON THE GENUS *TETRAPONERA* SMITH IN CHINA (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

Wu Jian Wang Changlu

(Forest Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Forestry)

Abstract

This paper presents a taxonomic study on the genus *Tetraponera* Smith, belonging to the subfamily Pseudomyrminae, in China. One species is new to science; one species is reported for the first time in China. All the type specimens are preserved in the Insect Collections of the Forest Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China. *Tetraponera microcarpa* Wu et Wang n. sp.

Worker (Holotype): TL 3.4mm; HL 0.72mm; HW 0.55mm; CI 76; head length with mandibles 0.80mm; scape length 0.35mm; greatest diameter of eye 0.12mm.

Head with almost parallel sides, a little narrower behind the eyes; the occipital angles round and the occipital border near straight; antennal scapes short, reaching up to the middle of eyes; antennal segments 3—11 broader than long, the 2nd and last ones longer, the last four segments forming a club; eyes large, placed at lateral and a little to the front of the middle of the head; anterior border of the clypeus as fig. 1. Pronotum and mesonotum rather flat, somewhat convex, marginate at sides; promesonotal suture distinct, unemarginate; mesoepinotal suture strongly emarginate; epinotum raised, very convex. Petiole petiolate; the length of the petiolate part half as long as the one of the 1st node; nodes rounded, the 2nd broader than the 1st. Gaster long and narrow. The tarsal claws simple, without middle teeth.

Whole body smooth and shining, densely longitudinal striation on the front of the head, including the clypeus and mandibles. Hairs and pubescence almost wanted except more at the front of the head and the tip of the gaster.

Color dark reddish brown, epinotum darker and petiole lighter; mandibles, clypeus, antennae, tibiae and tarsi yellow to yellow brown.

Variation: TL 3.3—4.0mm; HL 0.68—0.80mm; HW 0.55—0.59mm; CI 75—80. The coloration of this insect variable, from reddish yellow to