

Lobopelta diminuta Smith.1857. *Ponera diminuta*, Smith, *Journ. Linn. Soc., London*, ii, p. 69.1903. *Lobopelta diminuta*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 61.1911. *Lobopelta diminuta*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 103.

A nest of this species, containing eggs, larvæ, cocoons, males and workers, was found below the grasses in the College compound at Ballygunge, Calcutta. The eggs are minute and oval in shape. The larvæ are elongated and possess a long narrow and curved neck terminating in a head provided with mouth parts. The larvæ are enclosed within a thin chitinous integument bearing a number of tubercles and minute hairs. The cocoons are torpedo-shaped and covered with a tough, brown membrane.

The ants of this species have the habit of moving their camps from place to place. At the time of changing the nests the workers seize the larvæ and the cocoons in their mouth and remove them; while the males follow the workers to their new home. The eggs owing to their minute size, cannot be carried like the larvæ from place to place, but owing to their sticking to the body of the larvæ, they are carried along with them.

The adult is black, while the colouration of the callows varies from yellowish brown to reddish brown. These ants, as has been pointed out by Rothney, march in long lines, two deep.

Several examples of the species were collected by the late Lord Carmichael from Singla, (alt. 1500 ft.), Darjeeling district. The species is common in Bengal and occurs throughout India with the exception of the Punjab and the dry desert portions of Central India; it has also been recorded from the Malayan region.

Lobopelta pequeti Er. André.1887. *Lobopelta pequeti* E. Andréa, *Rev. d'Ent.*, vi, p. 292.1903. *Lobopelta pequeti*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 71, fig. 37.1911. *Leptogenys (Lobopelta) pequeti*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 104.

These ants travel in files, two abreast. Wroughton¹ records that the species makes stridulatory sounds which are audible when the ear is placed close to them. Aitken observes also that sounds produced by the ants of this species are loud enough to be audible to the human ear. Bingham, however, doubts their ability to make any sounds, but I have observed that the sound is actually produced by the rubbing one against the other of the anterior and posterior portions of the gaster near its constriction.

TRIBE: PONERINI Forel.

Diacamma scalpratrum (Smith).1858. *Ponera scalpratrum*, Smith, *Brit. Mus. Cat.*, vi, p. 84.1903. *Diacamma scalpratrum*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 77, fig. 40.1911. *Diacamma scalpratrum*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 65.

Bingham records the species from Burma and Tenasserim; Long and Jewett found it in Assam, and Forel reports it from Sikkim. Examples of species were collected by the late Lord Carmichael at Sukna (alt. 100 ft.), Darjeeling district.

Diacamma vagans (Smith).1861. *Ponera vagans*, Smith, *Journ. Linn. Soc. Zool. London*, v, p. 103.1903. *Diacamma vagans*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 81, fig. 43.1911. *Diacamma vagans*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 67.

A colony of about 20 workers and a male was obtained during the month of July 1927 from a nest beneath a mango tree at Calcutta. The nest was composed of loose moist earth and was four or five inches deep. It is interesting to note that, although the nest contained larvæ and cocoons, no females were found in it. A few workers of *Platythyrea victoriz* Forel, were, however found within the nest associated with the inmates, it is possible that they might have been 'thieve-ants'.

The species is very common in Bengal and is found throughout India, Burma, and Ceylon; it has also been recorded from the Malayan sub-region.

¹ Wroughton, R. C., *Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, vii, p. 27 (1892).