

WORKER.

Length, 8 mm., head oval, longer than broad, convex at the occiput, sides anteriorly straight, gradually narrowing posteriorly but not forming a neck; eyes small, round, placed a little in front of the middle of the sides of the head; mandibles triangular, with two apical teeth and masticatory border dentate; antennal carinæ convergent posteriorly; antennal and clypeal hollows deep and confluent; frontal area small, depressed; clypeus posteriorly produced between the bases of the antennæ, convex in the middle, its anterior border rounded; antennæ slender, the scape passing beyond the top of the head by about one-fourth of its length, joints of the flagellum longer than broad. Pronotum rounded on sides, convex above, anteriorly produced into a very short neck; pro-mesonotal suture distinct; mesonotum long, narrow, its anterior portion raised into an oval area as in *A. smythiesi* Forel, the posterior portion sloping back; meso-metanotal suture well marked; thorax emarginate at the latter suture; basal portion of the metanotum elongate anteriorly convex from side to side, the portion between the metanotal spines and just in front of them longitudinally excavated, apical portion slightly concave; metanotal spines short, acute and directed upwards; the first node petiolate, rounded above; the second node sub-conical and higher than the first; abdomen oval.

Mandibles punctate and longitudinally striate; the head feebly reticulate-rugose, anteriorly longitudinally striate; anterior basal portion of the metanotum distinctly striate transversely; nodes and abdomen smooth and shining.

A few erect hairs scattered on head and thorax; hairs more abundant on abdomen and nodes; pubescence absent.

Head and thorax dark reddish brown, mandibles yellowish brown, antennæ brownish yellow, legs pale yellow.

REMARKS.—The species is allied to *A. cristata* Forel, but is sharply marked off from the latter in having transverse striations on the metanotum and in the absence of a transverse medial impression in the mesonotum. Further, the head in this species is not constricted behind the eyes as in *A. cristata*. It differs from *A. smythiesi* in the outline of the head.

Types collected by the late Dr. N. Annandale from Simla (alt. 7,000 ft.) Western Himalayas, in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta.

TRIBE: MYRMICARIINI Forel.*Myrmicaria brunnea* Saunders.

1841. *Myrmicaria brunnea*, Saunders, *Trans. Ent. Soc. London*, iii, p. 57.

1903. *Myrmicaria brunnea*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 118.

1922. *Myrmicaria brunnea*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 122.

Three nests of this species were found in the College compound, Ballygunge, Calcutta. The nests were situated at the bases of trees a few yards off a tank. The ground was soft, moist and shaded from the direct rays of the sun by the trees. The nests were tenanted by populous colonies including males, females and many hundreds of workers, and must have been in existence on the same spot for several years. Rothney noted a colony occupying a spot for twenty years. In the year 1927 during the rains I excavated a nest which occupied an area of approximately four square feet and was two feet in depth. The nest had a single outlet but had several galleries inside. In the furthest recesses of the nest, very near the chamber containing the ant larvæ, were located a few termites' nests. Each termite's nest contained a few termite workers and had a fungus garden in it. The galleries of the nests of these two distinct species were in communication with one another. The close proximity of the termites' nest to the larval chamber of the ants suggests the possibility that the ant-larvæ enjoyed the benefit of having food, in the form of termites, within easy access, and the termites, in their turn, enjoyed protection from other enemies owing to their being placed within the ants' nest. On the other hand, the possibility that the ant-larvæ derived benefit from the fungus garden cannot be ignored. As, however, the termitophagus habits of *M. brunnea* have not been observed and the fungus garden has not been found in other nests, it is not possible to lay down the exact relationships between these two species.