

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS **ORECTOGNATHUS**

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Sydney

Subfamily **MYRMICINAE** Lepeletier

Tribe **DACETINI** Forel

Subtribe **ORECTOGNATHITI** Brown

Genus **ORECTOGNATHUS** Fred. Smith

**ORECTOGNATHUS NIGRIVENTRIS** sp. nov.

Worker. Length of head dorsally 1.05 mm.; length of mandibles 0.64 mm.; total length 4.25 mm.; Weber's length 0.98 mm.; cephalic index, 84; mandibular index, 61.

Monomorphic. Head in outline, viewed dorsally, cordiform; posterior edge strongly but smoothly concave; posterior half of lateral edges almost parallel, beginning to converge near eyes, and narrowing sharply in front of eyes; anterior edge across clypeus straight to slightly concave; exclusive of mandibles head longer than broad, broadest across posterior half. Viewed laterally along the line of head occipital lobe rises smoothly posteriorly and dips away evenly towards the eye; centre of head rises in a smooth mound; ante-ocular tooth sharp and distinct; line of mandibles rises at an angle of about 20° to that of the head.

Mandibles viewed dorsally, straight and parallel in outline; three-fifths length of head. Outer edges of mandibles slightly convex; inner edges somewhat concave; bearing at their insertions a tooth, the greater part of which is concealed beneath clypeus at full closure, and gives a broadening effect basally; further broadening along anterior third which broadening is accentuated by the distinct preapical excision. Throughout the length of the inner mandibular border there is a medial excision, giving a quasi double-flange effect, especially noticeable and more distinct near the preapical broadening. Apical teeth sharp and recurved forming three-pronged fork; dorsal-most tooth distinct, ventral pair conjoined to form quasi-secondary fork.

Clypeus transverse, slightly concave medially. Frontal area small and indistinct, with a faint frontal groove beginning at its posterior border and produced weakly posteriorly almost to the centre of head. Frontal carinae present, produced feebly behind eyes, but raised distinctly and slightly flattened in front of eyes; bearing a sharp anteocular tooth, which projects vertically and somewhat laterally. Frontal carinae produced anteriorly along lateral margins of frontal lobes, which partly overlap clypeus and conceal antennal insertions. Antennae with four-segmented funiculus; first segment almost twice as long as broad, and half the length of third segment; second and fourth segments roughly equal in length, the apical one incrassate; scape incrassate along apical third, failing to reach occipital border of lobes by about one third their length. Eyes large, placed almost medially, but slightly nearer anterior of head on lateral margins, and to the posterior-ventral limit of feeble scrobes. Central area of vertex of head raised in mound effect, falling away sharply posteriorly to the medially excised posterior margin; dorsum of occipital lobes raised, ridge-like, and extending feebly forward almost to meet antennal carinae.