

Petiole long and slender, rising gradually and thickening posteriorly; stalk almost two-thirds total length; node surmounted with two denticles or teeth, directed upwards, outwards and somewhat backwards; postpetiole subspherical, broader than long and broader than node; separated from node and gaster by constrictions. Gaster as usual for genus; oval, longer than broad, narrower than head; basal segment making up the greater part of its bulk; apical segments crowded, somewhat ventrally directed.

The sculpture of the head, alitrunk, node and postpetiole consists of crowded but distinct punctulae; coarser on the dorsum of the alitrunk and finer and shallower on the metapleural region of the pronotum, mesonotum, propodeum, and on the under sides of the stalk and node. Traces of rugae or striae on the anterior sloping faces of pronotum and mesonotum, and on the dorsum of the propodeum, carrying over on to the margins of the sloping declivity. Further rugae on the definite constriction between mesonotum and propodeum. Mandibles, apical half of pronotal and propodeal teeth and gaster smooth and shining, without distinct sculpture.

Pilosity is mainly in the nature of "ground pilosity," relatively short; numerous hairs on the antennae, much less numerous on the dorsum of the head, throughout the alitrunk and on the gaster. Inner margins of mandibles each furnished with three specialised erect hairs. Teeth of mandibles carrying longer and more erect hairs.

Head and alitrunk red to reddish-brown, with some specimens lighter than holotype; probably still in callow stages. Gaster black except for traces of gingerish red on anterior portion where it is joined to postpetiole. Apical segments of gaster also with traces of ginger. Mandibles yellow, but darkened on apical teeth and along inner margins. Antennal scapes brownish-red with traces of black; legs, especially anterior portions of trochanter and femur, black to brownish-red.

The nearest congener to the above described species is *Orectognathus phyllobates* Brown. But *nigriventris* is a trifle more robust, especially the head which tends to be deeper, at least in larger individuals. Large teeth of body armament, especially the humeral and petiolar pairs, shorter, stouter and more nearly straight. The subapical expansions of the mandibles are also less well developed, so that the inner mandibular borders are less strongly concave in all sizes of workers. Post-petiolar node narrower and with straighter, more parallel sides. Less conspicuous adpressed pilosity on gastric dorsum. Colour of *nigriventris* is light ferruginous red; gaster predominantly black to the naked eye. This combination of colours marks it off in the field from all of its congeners.

MEASUREMENTS OF TWENTY PARATYPES.—Length of head dorsally 0.96–1.08 mm.; length of mandibles 0.64–0.68 mm.; total length 4.08–4.58 mm.; Weber's length 0.98–1.06 mm.; cephalic index 84–88; mandibular index 59–67. There is little variation in this species. Larger workers tend to have disproportionately more massive heads and mandibles, with heavier subapical expansions of the mandibles. Minor variation exists in the length of various large teeth and tubercles of alitrunk and petiole, and in density of foveolate sculpture. Some paratypes are darker than described, the reddish forebody being in part lightly infuscated.