

## A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS MERANOPLUS.

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Subfamily MYRMICINAE Lepeletier

Tribe MERANOPLINI Emery

Genus MERANOPLUS Smith, F., emend. Mayr.

**MERANOPLUS TESTUDINEUS** sp. nov.

Worker. Length of head dorsally 1.13 mm. ; Weber's length 1.13 mm. ; cephalic index 93; total length 4.15 mm.

Colour uniformly yellowish-red or orange, except for the eyes and mandibular teeth which are black. Mandibles smooth except for a few transverse striae. Scrobes smooth; sides of head with a few transverse striae, but remainder of head microscopically densely reticulate with a few additional scattered shallow punctures. Dorsum of thorax, petiole, postpetiole and gaster microscopically densely reticulate. Sides of thorax with finer sculpture and some traces of transverse striae, while the posterior face of the postpetiole has traces of circular striae. Scapes and femora finely longitudinally striate.

Hair long, pale reddish-yellow, suberect, scattered on head and body; it is shorter on the upper surface of the head, scapes and legs, while on the funiculi it is denser and adpressed.

Head, excluding the translucent border, very slightly longer than broad, subcordiform, broadest across the occiput; sides curved inwards at the posterior quarter and outwards again at the centre, so that the head is almost as broad across the centre as at the occiput. Anterior half of the head is narrowed with evenly convex sides. On each side of the head from the posterior corners to the clypeus is an evenly convex pale reddish-yellow, broad, translucent lamella, one-fifth as broad as occiput through which can be seen the distorted outline of the black eyes. The occipital border is concave and posterior corners rounded. Mandibles short, very curved, with five sharp black teeth, the apical longest. Mandibles concealed by clypeus, only visible when front of head is tilted. Clypeus subperpendicular to upper surface of head, transverse, anterior border concealed in dorsal view, but it is concave with anterior corners produced forward as blunt prongs, the posterior border faint. Frontal area indistinct; frontal carinae represented by flattened lobes bordering the clypeus, each slightly longer than broad. Below the lamellate border, in profile view, can be seen the deep scrobe which holds the entire folded antenna. The scape extends almost to posterior border of head. Funiculi eight segmented; first segment almost as long as three following together; second and third as long as broad, equal in size; fourth and fifth slightly larger; apical three segments form a distinct club with apical segment almost equal to the two preceding. Eyes moderately large, hemispherical, placed below the scrobe at the posterior quarter of sides of head.

Thorax, excluding the translucent membrane, very irregular in outline; including the membrane, it is almost twice as broad as long, slightly broader behind than in front; anterior border feebly concave with anterior corners sharp, sides evenly convex curving into the posterior border which is slightly concave in the middle. No sutures on the dorsum. Between each anterior corner of prothorax and neck is an arc of translucent membrane. About the centre of the thorax on each