

side is a large oval of translucent membrane, separated from a smaller oval by a narrow, long, blunted projection from the epinotal region. Another oval of translucent membrane on the posterior border is almost enclosed by narrow curved projections from the posterior corners of the epinotum. Through the broad lamellate border extending behind the thorax can be seen the outline of the petiole. In profile, the dorsum of the thorax is feebly convex. Below the lamella the anterior corners of the prothorax are produced as short sharp spines. The posterior upper corner of the epinotum is produced in a longer spine which is partly covered by the lamella. About the middle of the declivity of the epinotum is a long, sharp, straight spine, over which spreads a triangular translucent lamella, partly concealing the profile view of the petiole and extending almost to the dorsum of the epinotum.

Upper border of petiole, viewed from above, is reduced to a transverse line; in profile it is scale like with the anterior and posterior faces feebly convex and meeting at the blunt apex; ventrally a short sharp spine is present. From the front, the node of the petiole is twice as broad as at the base, the upper border convex and without a trace of lamellae.

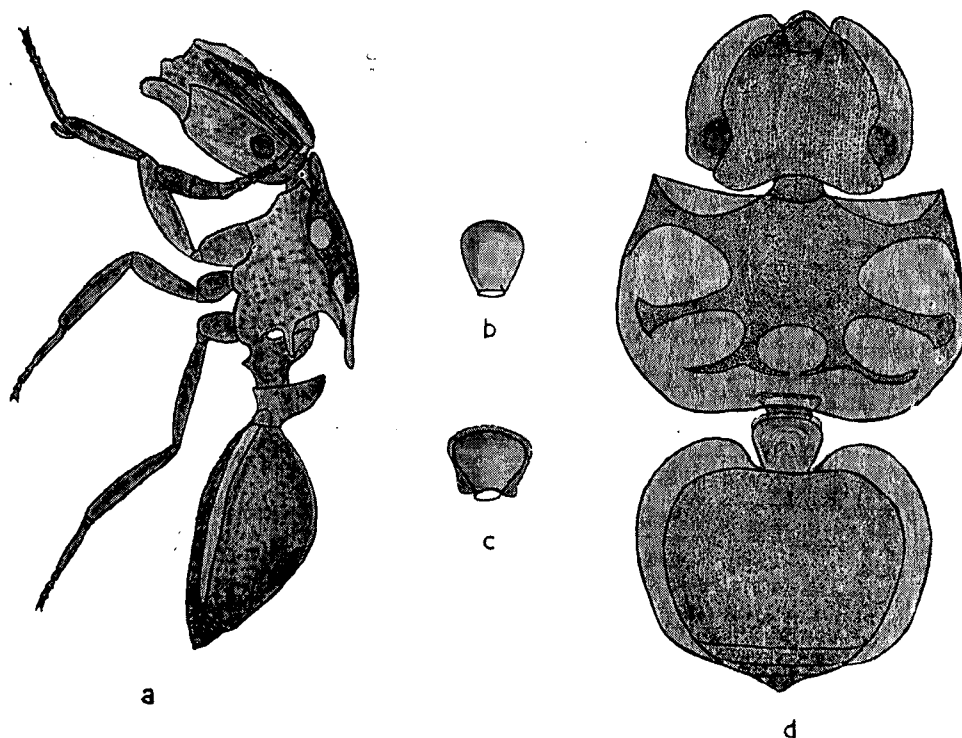


Figure 1.—*Meranoplus testudineus* sp. nov.

a. Lateral view of worker. b. Petiole; node viewed from front. c. Postpetiole; node viewed from front. d. Dorsal view of head and body.