

Valley) 29.IV.1976, B. Shalmon; 3♀♀, 3♂♂ Timna 26.III.1978, B. Shalmon; 20♀♀, Timna 25.II.1980, B. Shalmon; 3♀♀, 3♂♂, Timna 27.IV.1981, B. Shalmon; 1♀, Sinai, Nahal Yam near Bardawil (Northern Sinai) 1.II.1973, A. Freidberg.

AFFINITIES. *Cataglyphis sabulosa* resembles *C. bombycina* (Roger) in the following characters: rich pubescence on the gaster as well as on many other parts of the body; the petiolar scale is squamiform in all castes; the 3rd segment of the maxillary palp is longer than the 4th, with very long standing hairs; the 5th and 6th segments are subequal in length; all castes have a well developed psammophore formed by the long pilosity of the clypeus, mandibles, palps and ventral surface of the head. The main differences between the two species are as follows:

1. Gaster of worker brown. Erect hairs on 3rd segment of maxillary palp reach or extend beyond half length of segment. "Soldier" caste well differentiated; "soldier" with very long, cruciate, saberlike mandibles. Wing without discoidal cell. Posterior border of subgenital plate in male with a well developed tooth in the middle; gonostylus without dorsal appendage. Head of female not reticulated, shiny

. *Cataglyphis bombycina* (Roger)
(Deserts of North Africa, Sinai and southern Arava Valley in Israel).

— Workers usually uniformly yellow to orange; gaster light brown only in some major workers. Erect hairs on 3rd segment of maxillary palp extend beyond 1/3, but never reach half length of segment. "Soldier" caste not differentiated. Wing with discoidal cell. Posterior border of subgenital plate in male indented in the middle; gonostylus with large dorsal appendage. Head and scutum of female finely reticulated, not shiny *Cataglyphis sabulosa* n.sp.

(Southern Coastal Plain and southern Arava Valley in Israel, Northern Sinai)

Santschi (1929) included *C. bombycina* with *C. lucasi* Emery in the subgenus *Machaeromyrma* Forel. *Cataglyphis lucasi* is known only from the Sahara. Like *C. bombycina*, it has very long pilosity on the 3rd segment of the maxillary palp, however, the brown black gaster of the worker is shiny, with very poor pubescence.

Another yellow orange species of *Cataglyphis* common in Israel is *C. livida* André. In this species the petiolar scale is nodiform in the worker, as characteristic for the subgenus *Cataglyphis* (sensu Santschi 1929). The gonocoxite of the male is very long and pointed and the gonostylus lacks a dorsal appendage. The female is yellow with shiny gaster, nearly devoid of pubescence. The workers, like most species of the genus usually walk with an erect gaster, while the workers of the new species never do so.

BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS. In the Coastal Plain *C. sabulosa* was found only on sand dunes and their edges. Only small and medium sized workers were seen on the surface of the sands. They run very fast, never with an erect gaster. Because of this behaviour and due to their silvery pubescence, they are much less visible than the workers of *C. livida* which may occur in the same habitat.

On 26.V.1981 in an area of sand dunes near the harbour of Ashdod (Southern Coastal Plain) an alate female was seen running on the sand. Nest openings which are very small, were located by following returning workers. Three nests were partly excavated. In the first nest in a depth of only 20 cm were found workers of different