

*Aenictus eugenii* Emery is distributed throughout much of East Africa, although it is not frequently seen. During the past 4 years we have encountered the species only 6 times, but on 4 of these occasions, we were able to observe, to some extent, the behavior of the species. Dr. David H. Kistner, California State University, Chico, has kindly provided us with a series of workers and an associated queen of the species, and we are now able to describe the queen for the first time. We have also provided a taxonomic history of the species including a new synonym.

#### TAXONOMY OF THE SPECIES

##### *Aenictus eugenii*

*Aenictus eugenii* Emery, 1895, Ann. Soc. Entomol. Fr. 63: 17-18, worker. Type locality Makapan (Transvaal, South Africa). Types in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genoa, examined 1972.

*Aenictus eugenii* var. *kenyensis* Santschi, 1933, Bull. Ann. Soc. Entomol. Belg. 73: 100, worker. Type locality "Kiambou," Kenya. Cotypes in the British Museum (Natural History), London, examined 1972. New Synonymy.

Subsequent to Emery's description of *A. eugenii*, Santschi described for the species 3 varieties that he called *brazzai* (1910), *henrii* (1924), and *kenyensis* (1933), and Forel (1910) described one subspecies named *caroli*. In 1924, Santschi elevated *brazzai* to specific rank because it lacked the conspicuous clypeal teeth common to *eugenii*. Santschi (1924) described *henrii* as intermediate between *caroli* and the *eugenii* type specimens and based his description on the shape of the head and disposition of the clypeal teeth. His short description of *kenyensis* (1933), on the other hand, relied heavily on differences in overall coloration and on the length of the antennal scape, which he perceived as shorter than that of Emery's types. We have examined the type specimens of *eugenii* and *kenyensis* and cannot justify the existence of the latter as distinct within the species *eugenii*. Although the *kenyensis* type specimens are smaller than those of *eugenii*, they are alike in other respects.

We have also examined cotypes of *caroli* but are not prepared to deal with its status until types of other East African species are examined. This subspecies is small and equal in size to the smallest *eugenii* specimens that we examined from Kenya. While its pattern of punctation is like that of *eugenii*, it is entirely golden-yellow (the head and alitrunk of *eugenii* are reddish-brown).

The specimens of *eugenii* that we examined, excluding *caroli*, ranged in total length from 4.20 mm for specimens from Rhodesia to 3.51 mm for specimens from Kenya. Preliminary measurements suggest that worker size varies clinally with the largest workers representing the southern end of the cline.

**Queen Description:** Total length 10.55 mm, head length 1.53 mm, head width 1.62 mm, cephalic index 106, alitrunk length 2.20 mm, petiole length 0.72 mm, gaster length 6.10 mm, scape length 0.72 mm, length of petiolar node 0.67 mm, width of petiolar node 0.90 mm, hind femur length 1.35 mm, mandible length (from point of insertion to tip of apical tooth) 0.81 mm.

Habitus as in Figs. 1A and 1B. Head, alitrunk, petiole, gaster and appendages reddish-brown. Darkest on mandibles and dorsum and venter of gaster.

Head as in Fig. 1E. Head sutureless, without eyes, punctation or frontal carinae. Occipital margin (as in Fig. 1E) medially concave. Antennal fossae deeply impressed.