

Monomorium boltoni n. sp. from São Nicolau (Cape Verde Islands)
(Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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Monomorium boltoni, n. sp. from Cape Verde Islands is described. The species belongs in the *salomonis*-group and is characterised by the absolute absence of thoracic pilosity and sculpture in the worker caste and by the propodeal spoon-shaped projections of the pilose ergatoid female.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Monomorium* MAYR, 1855 is distributed worldwide (BROWN, 1973) but most species are found in the Old World; DU BOIS (1986) summarizes the present knowledge of the taxonomy and reviews the native New World species (*minimum*-group); palearctic species, in spite of the works of EMERY (1908), SANTSCHI (1936), MENOZZI (1933) and COLLINGWOOD (1985) still lack a comprehensive review; afrotropical species have been recently revised by BOLTON (1987) in a broader study of the *Solenopsis* genus-group. As a result of comparison of the information offered in two papers (ESPADALER & AGOSTI, 1985; BOLTON, 1986) an undescribed species from Cape Verde Islands was discovered; two other species are known from there: *M. destructor* (JERDON) and *M. subopacum* (SMITH) (BOLTON, 1987), both very different from the new one. Its description follows.

DESCRIPTION

Monomorium boltoni n. sp.

Monomorium hesperium EMERY sensu BOLTON, 1986: 270 (misidentification)

Worker (figs. 1A–D)

Length 2.85–2.87 mm; colour brown with funicule and tarsi clearer (mounted dry specimens for some 30 years).

Sculpture absent except 2–3 minute striae at the mandibular base, the scattered hair pits and a very superficial, difficult to see, alutaceous propodeal microsculpture.

Head longer than broad; HL (head length) 0.65–0.70 mm; HW (head width) 0.52–0.55 mm; CI (cephalic index: HW × 100/HL) 78–82. Anterior clypeal margin feebly concave between the apices of the very weakly developed clypeal carinae, that diverge anteriorly; clypeus without projecting denticles at the junction of its anterior and lateral margins. Maximum diameter of eye 0.18–0.19 × HW with 40–45 ommatidia, 6–7 ommatidia in the longest row; in full face view, the posterior margin of the eyes behind the midlength of the sides of the head; occipital margin shallowly concave; scape long, surpassing the occipital