

though in different degrees of thoracic sclerites reduction; we cannot but agree with BOLTON (1986) when considering this group a polyphyletic lineage, aptery not being an apomorphic character. Females of *M. boltoni* are very conspicuous and easily recognisable: the two propodeal projections are unique among known *Monomorium* females; from the known species with apterous or ergatoid females (BOLTON, 1987: 329), the workers differ mainly by the thoracic pilosity and body sculpture; closest worker relatives seem to be *M. medinae* FOREL, *M. hesperium* EMERY and an unidentified species from Fuerteventura (Canary Islands), all with different ergatoid females and workers with alitrunk devoid of pilosity and shiny appearance; *M. boltoni* differs from all three by its absolute absence of thoracic sculpture; *M. hesperium* has a pair of hairs on the petiole, a more pronounced mesopropodeal impression, different propodeal profile and superficially reticulated, but brilliant, mesopleuron; *M. medinae* has a reticulated, nearly opaque, mesopleuron and different propodeal profile (similar to *M. hesperium*); the species from Fuerteventura is darker in colour and has the mesopleuron reticulated as in *M. medinae*; in summary, *M. boltoni* is characterized in the workers by the absence of thoracic pilosity, absence of thoracic sculpture and for the single pair of hairs on the postpetiole.

The western Atlantic archipelagoes (Azores, Madeira, Canaries, Cape Verde) appear to have developed its own *Monomorium* fauna and, due to female aptery, some species offer a beautiful image of restricted populations; this loss of dispersal power is the most conspicuous characteristic of adaptation to insular environments (MAC ARTHUR & WILSON, 1967); careful collections in many smaller and unexplored islands and the revision of the extensive Lindberg collections (WELLENIUS, 1955) and the identifications of DONISTHORPE (1936) could provide more examples of this interesting adaptive radiation.

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