

between the two gradual and not marked. *Scale of petiole* small, not high, about as broad as long, rounded above and at sides. *Gaster* long oval, narrowed in front and behind; *cerci* present. *Stipites* thin and curved with a hook inside half-way down; *volesellae* thin, curved, very sharp, the point bending slightly outwards; *sagittae* close together, curved and sharply pointed at apex. *Legs* fairly long. *Wings* as in the ♀ but smaller in proportion. *Long.* 2.5 mm.

Described from 22 workers, 9 winged females and 5 males taken by Mr. W. Pickles at Soud Arras in Algeria. Type, and male and female types, in the British Museum (N.H.). Mr. Pickles writes that the ants were taken on 11 December 1943, in a corner of the practically deserted superstructure of a nest of *Messor aegyptiacus* subsp. *canaliculatus* Donis. A few *Messor* crawled about, when the nest was disturbed, and tapped the smaller ants, but seemed indifferent to their presence.

The genus *Bothriomyrmex* was erected by Emery in 1869 for the reception of a species (♂ and ♀) which he had captured in the neighbourhood of Naples, and named *Bothriomyrmex costae*. Roger, however, in 1863, had described the worker of a species from Montpellier and Andalusia under the name of *Tapinoma meridionalis*, and Mayr in 1870 pointed out that this was the ♀ of Emery's *costae*. Consequently the name of the species is *Bothriomyrmex meridionalis* (Roger). Forel in 1894 described another species *B. atalantis* (♀) from North Africa.

Santschi, in 1911, described a new species, *B. decapitans*, from Kairouan, Tunis, which he had previously recorded in 1906 as *B. atalantis* Forel.

In 1915 Wheeler described a species under the name of *B. dimmocki* from Mt. Tom, near Springfield, Massachusetts, but according to Emery (1925) this is not a *Bothriomyrmex* at all, but a species of *Tapinoma*. He further states that the genus *Bothriomyrmex* is exclusively palaeartic and Indo-Australian.

In 1920 Santschi enumerated 10 species of *Bothriomyrmex*, describing seven new ones, of which he gave figures. As all the European and North African species possess 4-jointed maxillary palpi, whereas those from India and Australia possess only 2-jointed ones, he gave the subgeneric name *Chronoxenus* to the latter; but he failed to cite a type. I propose *Bothriomyrmex myops* Forel, 1895, ♀♀, from Sikkim, as type by present designation.

Emery, in 1925, in a paper on the European and oriental species of the genus *Bothriomyrmex*, when referring to Santschi's 1920 monograph of the genus, suggested that the European species were not known to that authority except from specimens from collections, and often in a bad state, chiefly represented by workers, which are very polymorphic and do not offer such distinctive characters as the females and males. The male genitalia, however, exhibit considerable variation. He then gave a list, with very precise descriptions and figures of all the European and Asiatic species, subspecies, and varieties (with their synonymy), which separate naturally into an occidental group (hispano-provençal) and an oriental group (Crimea, Caucasus?, Syria, Central Asia).

It is usually the case that the genera of parasitic ants are descendants from the genera of their hosts, but Emery considered that *Bothriomyrmex* is descended from *Iridomyrmex* and not from *Tapinoma*. He pointed out that the gizzard and the male genitalia resemble more closely those of the former than the latter. Furthermore, *B. scissor* Crawley, was taken by J. Clark in a nest of *Iridomyrmex innocens* Forel, in Australia. He thought that the first species of *Bothriomyrmex* was parasitic on species of *Iridomyrmex*. At the period when *Iridomyrmex* disappeared from the palaeartic fauna and was replaced by