

A NEW SPECIES AND A NEW VARIETY OF *TECHNOMYRMEX* MAYR
(HYM., FORMICIDAE) FROM NEW GUINEA

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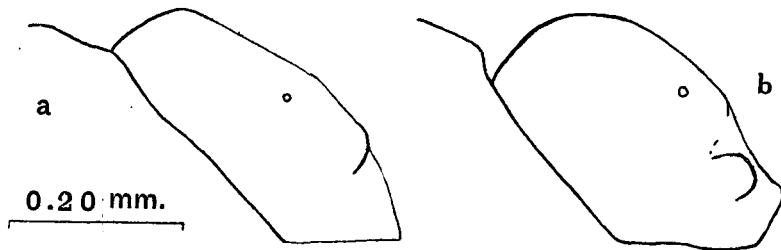
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***Technomyrmex cheesmanae* sp.n.**

♀. Black, slightly shining, mandibles and funiculi dirty yellow, palpi and tarsi pale yellow; clothed with grey pubescence, more abundant on gaster, and fairly long yellow outstanding hairs springing from small slightly raised black granules. Finely punctured, the mesonotum and epinotum more strongly, their sides being somewhat rugosely punctured.

Head triangular, narrower in front, broadest before posterior angles, which are rounded, posterior border excised in centre; *mandibles* triangular, fairly long, crossed at apex when closed, external border curved, masticatory border armed with a number of small teeth, the three apical ones being longer and sharper; *clypeus* transverse, rather flat, anterior border slightly excised in middle; *frontal area* not distinctly defined; *frontal carinae* short, narrow, not raised, somewhat wide apart, slightly divergent posteriorly; *antennae* 12-jointed, long, *scape* extending beyond posterior border of head, *funiculus* thickened to apex, first joint considerably longer than broad, broadest at apex, as long as the two following taken together, the last joint about as long as the two preceding joints taken together; *eyes* fairly large, oblong, not very convex, with rather large facets, situated about the middle and somewhat above the side-margins of the head.

Thorax longer than broad, *prothorax* considerably broader than rest; *pronotum* convex, anterior border and sides rounded and narrowly margined; *pro-mesonotal suture* distinct, curved, embracing the mesonotum; *mesonotum* narrow, longer than broad, convex; *meso-epinotal suture* deep; *epinotum* convex, rounded at sides and above, the angle between the dorsal surface and declivity not marked, the declivity not longer than the dorsal surface. *Pedical* without a node, flat, long oval, broadest in middle; *gaster* oval, overhanging the pedical at base, narrowed behind; *cloacal orifice* situated at apex. Long. 3 mm.



Epinotum in profile of (a) *T. detorquens* Walker, (b) *T. cheesmanae* sp.n.

Described from fifteen specimens, DUTCH NEW GUINEA, Mt. Nomo, S. of Mt. Bougainville, 600-1,500 ft., Nov., 1936, and seven specimens from E. DUTCH NEW GUINEA, Humbolt Bay, Hollandia, April, 1936, all taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman.

TYPE, from Mt. Nomo, in British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

This species differs from *Technomyrmex detorquens* Walker (*albipes* F. Smith) in being less shining, the mesonotum and epinotum are a little more rugosely punctured, and in the shape of the epinotum. In *detorquens* the dorsal surface of the epinotum slopes forward slightly, and the declivity, which is considerably longer than the former, slopes downwards; the angle between the two is well marked. Bingham (1903, *Faun. Brit. India*, Hym. 2, Formicidae: 300) gives this as a generic character, which would cut out

our species; but Mayr in the original description (1872, *Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova*, **2**: 147) writes of the epinotum, 'hoc gibbiforme,' which includes both.

***Technomyrmex cheesmanae* var. *albicoxis* v.nov.**

In this variety the two posterior pairs of coxae, all the trochanters and the base of the femora and tibiae are white.

Described from two specimens taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman, NORTH DUTCH NEW GUINEA, Waigeu Island, Camp Nok, 2,500 ft., May, 1938.

TYPE in British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

I am indebted to Dr. Hinton for the drawings.

British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London, S.W.7.

November 28th, 1944.