

A NEW SPECIES OF TRIGLYPHOTHRIX FOREL (HYM., FORMICIDAE)
FROM UGANDA WITH SOME NOTES ON THE GENUS

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Triglyphothrix pulcherrima sp.n.

♂. Head, mandibles, antennae, anterior tarsi, last four joints of intermediate and posterior tarsi reddish yellow, body and eyes black, legs brown with articulations lighter. Whole body clothed with a fluff, or down, of delicate white mould-like hairs.

Head slightly longer than broad, slightly narrower anteriorly, broadest at base, cheeks rounded, sides of head behind eyes almost straight, posterior angles and border rounded. The sculpture of the head consists of small shallow round punctures, which have the appearance of gold spots. Mandibles massive, triangular, masticatory border armed with two sharp teeth at apex, the apical one being the longer; two or three small teeth and a slightly larger one are arranged before the apical teeth; clypeus large triangular, convex and carinate in centre, anterior border rounded, sides narrowed, the margin of the posterior border is raised, forming a strong carina which forms the anterior border of the antennal foveae; frontal area indistinct; frontal furrow narrow and deep, extending almost to posterior border of head; a double scrobe is present on each side of the head, above eyes, for the reception of the scape and funiculus when the antennae are folded back; eyes oblong-oval, convex, situated at the sides of the head, slightly before the centre; antennae 12-jointed, with a 3-jointed club, scape spindle-shaped, funiculus with first joint a little longer than broad, joints 2-7 strongly transverse, the first joint of the club shorter and slightly narrower than the second, last joint pointed at apex and longer than the two preceding taken together. Thorax short and stout, broadest in front, narrowed behind, convex and arched on disc, anterior angles bluntly rounded, pro-mesonotal and meso-epinotal sutures absent; epinotum armed with two short sharp spines projecting slightly outwards, concave between the spines. The sculpture of the thorax is of a similar nature to that of the head, but the punctures are smaller, and the reflection is that of ruby spots. Petiole pedunculate, rounded at sides and above, transverse, somewhat rugosely punctured; post-petiole transverse, shorter but broader than petiole, sides rounded, punctuation as in petiole; gaster short, oval, slightly longitudinally striate. Legs moderate, tibiae and tarsi spindle-shaped. Long. 2.5 mm.

Described from two workers taken by G. L. R. Hancock in Nambazidza Forest, Kampala, UGANDA, 3.iv.26.

Type in British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

The genus *Triglyphothrix* was described by Forel (1890) for the reception of the species *T. walshi* Forel, ♂ ♀, from India. The hairs in this genus are usually branched, being generally trifid (hence the name) and sometimes polyfid. The species inhabit naturally the Ethiopian, Indomalayan and Papuan Regions.

Mann (1919) recorded and described four species from the Solomon Islands. His *T. pulchella* is the nearest in colour to our species, but possesses much longer spines. All the species are very timid little ants, curling up and feigning death when touched or alarmed. They nest underground, beneath stones, etc. One species from Africa is said to live in plesiobiosis with other ants; another from Assam is recorded as a cave-dweller, nesting in complete darkness 400 ft. from the entrance of the cave.

The Indian species *T. striatidens* Emery is one of the four ants given by Forel (1910) as actually becoming cosmopolitan at the present time. Indeed, it has become such now, having been taken in such widely separated

localities as Queensland, Formosa, Tunis, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Barbados, Mexico, Louisiana and England. I have found it in plenty in the fern and palm houses in Kew Gardens.

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