

From the ANNALS AND MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY,
Ser. 11, vol. xii. p. 776, November 1945.

1946 G

New Species of Ants (Hym., Formicidæ) from the Island of Mauritius. By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., etc.

Family **Formicidæ.**

Subfamily *MYRMICINÆ.*

Cardiocondyla mauritia, sp. n.

♀. Head, thorax and petiole light reddish brown, legs and antennæ lighter, clubs of antennæ, post-petiole and gaster darker brown.

Head rectangular, longer than broad, sides almost straight, posterior angles rounded, posterior border almost straight, very finely granulate, and furnished with very short decumbent yellow hairs; *mandibles* small, broad, triangular, masticatory border with a short pointed tooth at base, a longer, sharper tooth at apex, and four much smaller blunt teeth between; *clypeus* triangular, somewhat convex, anterior border rounded; *frontal area* indistinct; *frontal carinæ* short and straight; *eyes* fairly large and prominent, situated considerably in front of middle of sides of head; *antennæ* 12-jointed, *scape* not reaching posterior border of head, *funiculus* with first joint longer and broader than the following eight joints, *club* large, 3-jointed, first joint narrowed and considerably shorter than second, last joint longer than the two preceding taken together. *Thorax* longer than broad, narrower than head, broadest at anterior angles of pronotum, which are rounded, but distinct; no *suture* between pro- and mesonotum; *promesonotum* somewhat flat on disc, somewhat shining and more finely punctured than head; *suture* between mesonotum and epinotum well marked; *epinotum* with dorsal surface convex and longer than declivity, which is concave, armed with two well-developed, sharply-pointed teeth; *petiole* with a raised node, rounded in profile; *post-petiole* broad, transverse, rounded above and at sides, considerably broader than node of petiole; *gaster* long oval, narrowed to apex.

Long. 2 mm.

No. 102. Described from four workers taken by R. Mamet, Mauritius, 1941-1945.

Type in B.M. Coll.

Solenopsis mameti, sp. n.

♀. Dark yellowish brown, legs and antennæ lighter, gaster a little darker, very smooth and shining, whole body furnished with sparse, longer and shorter, yellow, outstanding hairs, more abundant on gaster.

Head subquadrate, slightly broader in front than behind, broadest about centre, posterior angles rounded, posterior border almost straight; *mandibles* rather long, narrow, masticatory border armed with three teeth, the apical one longest and sharpest, the two at the base shorter and blunter; *clypeus* narrow, triangular, bicarinate, the carinæ ending at anterior border in two small teeth, posterior border bluntly pointed, extending between frontal carinæ; *frontal carinæ* short, flat, not wide apart, slightly divergent posteriorly; *antennæ* 10-jointed, *scape* not reaching posterior border of head, *funiculus* with first joint longer and broader than the following short six joints, last two joints forming a large club considerably longer and broader than all those preceding, last joint pointed at apex, considerably longer, but as broad as the preceding one; *eyes* small, flat, situated at sides in front of middle of head. *Thorax* narrow, longer than broad, narrower than head, broadest in middle of pro-mesonotum; *prosternum* forming a neck, no suture between pro- and mesonotum; *promesonotum* oval, convex, rounded in front and at sides; meso-epinotal *suture* well marked; *epinotum* convex on dorsal surface, angle between dorsal surface and declivity rounded, dorsal surface longer than declivity, declivity concave. *Petiole* with a high node, rounded above, pointed in profilé; *post-petiole* slightly transverse, broader than node of petiole, rounded above, in front, and at sides; *gaster* oblong oval, truncate at base.

Long. 1.8-2 mm.

♀. Colour the same as in the worker, but considerably larger in size; outstanding hairs more abundant. *Head* longer in proportion; *mandibles* with longer and sharper teeth; *clypeus* as in ♀; *antennæ* 11-jointed, otherwise similar in construction to ♀; *eyes* large and much more

prominent; *ocelli* present. *Thorax* long, narrow, dorsal surface rather flat; *promesonotum* rounded in front, considerably longer than broad, finely but not closely punctured; *præscutellum* narrow, transverse; *scutellum* short, round oval, smooth and shining; *metanotum* narrow, transverse, slightly raised; *epinotum* smooth and shining, dorsal surface flat, longer than declivity, with a very blunt tubercle at each side of angle between it and declivity, declivity concave; *petiole* with rather high node, rounded above, pointed in profile, posterior surface slightly convex; *post-petiole* transverse, rounded above and at sides, broader than node of petiole, anterior surface concave, posterior surface convex, a small, short, pointed tooth is present on under side; *gaster* long oval, pointed at apex, rather deeply excised at junction with post-petiole.

Long. 3.5 mm.

Described from 54 workers, and three dealated females taken by R. Mamet on Corps de Garde Mt., Mauritius, December 26, 1945. The colony was nesting under a stone in a shady place. Larvæ were present, and also four specimens of a Bethyloid.

Type in B.M. Coll.

Triglyphothrix mauricei, sp. n.

♀. Reddish brown, mouth-parts, antennæ and legs pale brownish yellow; body clothed with moderately short and abundant outstanding brown hairs of different lengths and structure.

Head a little longer than broad, slightly narrower in front than behind, space between eyes and posterior angles straight, posterior angles rounded, posterior border very slightly and shallowly excised. Sculpture consisting of slightly raised longitudinally ridges, interrupted by cross striæ, forming a network and enclosing irregular spaces. *Mandibles* massive, triangular, slightly striate and punctate, masticatory border armed with a sharp tooth at apex, preceded by a row of short and blunt teeth; *clypeus* large, triangular, dorsal surface convex and striate longitudinally, the margin of the posterior border raised, forming a strong carina, which forms the anterior border of the antennal foveæ, anterior border slightly excised in middle; *scrobes* shallow and smooth, extending back near to posterior border; *frontal area* and *furrow* wanting; *eyes* fairly large, round, and prominent, situated in about

the middle of sides of head; *antennæ* 12-jointed, *club* 3-jointed, *scape* curved, not reaching posterior border of head, *funiculus* with first joint subquadrate, next seven joints transverse, gradually increasing in width, first joint of club shorter and narrower than second, last joint slightly longer than the two preceding taken together. *Thorax* rather short, convex, robust, broader in front, narrowed behind, broadest a little behind humeral angles, which are slightly prominent, no sutures on dorsal surface; *epinotum* armed with two moderately long, sharp, divergent spines, declivity concave and smooth, with two short, sharp teeth, situated one on each side of base; the sculpture of thorax consists of a network of raised ridges, enclosing somewhat irregular spaces. *Petiole* with smooth peduncle, node rounded above and at sides, sculpture as in thorax; *post-petiole* slightly transverse, sides rounded, very slightly broader and sculpture finer than in petiole; *gaster* short oval, smooth, shining, excised at base at junction with post-petiole. *Legs* moderate, *femora* and *tibiæ* spindle-shaped.

Long. 2.5 mm.

No. 48. Described from three workers taken by Mr. R. Mamet at Rose Hill, Mauritius, in 1942.

This species comes near to the cosmopolitical *T. striatidens* Emery, but is darker in colour, the sculpture of the petiole and post-petiole is considerably coarser, and the epinotal spines are shorter and straighter.

Strumigenys (Cephaloxys) raymondi, sp. n.

♀. Brownish red, body clothed with scattered, not very abundant outstanding, clavate hairs, and fine subappressed hairs situated chiefly on head. *Head* narrow, triangular, considerably narrower at apex than at base, broadest just before posterior angles, posterior angles rounded, posterior border sharply excised in middle, vertex somewhat convex, sculpture closely and finely granulate; *mandibles* narrow, not very long, slightly convex above and bent downwards at apex, base hidden beneath clypeus, masticatory border curved to a sharp, fine point at apex, rest of border without teeth, underside somewhat hollowed out; *clypeus* broad diamond-shaped, slightly raised, but rather flat, anterior border slightly projecting; *frontal area* indicated by a small, somewhat deep pit; *frontal furrow* very faint and short; *frontal carinæ*

slightly raised, sinuate behind, and continued along upper rims of scrobes, which are slightly serrate; *scrobes* situated above eye, and extending nearly to posterior angles; *antennæ* 6-jointed, *scape* curved and extending to end of base of scrobe, *funiculus* with first joint not quite as long as fourth, second and third very short, last joint long and pointed, nearly as long as the rest of the funiculus; *eyes* very small, situated beneath scrobes considerably behind centre of sides of head. *Thorax* rather shining, sculpture finer than that of head, longer than broad, broadest behind posterior angles, dorsal surface round, convex, considerably contracted at mesoepinotal suture; *pronotum* narrow, transverse, forming a neck in front, humeral angles slightly projecting, *mesonotum* furnished with two small teeth or projections at base before mesoepinotal furrow, which is transverse, smooth, and deep; *epinotum* armed with two small sharp, slightly divergent, projecting teeth, or spines, *dorsal surface* convex, somewhat longer than declivity, *declivity* concave. *Petiole* with a long narrow peduncle and short, slightly transverse node at base, rounded above and at sides; *post-petiole* rather broad, transversely elliptical, broader than node of petiole, convex, rounded, smooth and shining above; *spongiform appendages* fairly well developed, situated between petiole and post-petiole, and post-petiole and gaster, most prominent beneath post-petiole; *gaster* oblong ovate, smooth and shining except for a number of short longitudinal striae at base; *sting* exerted. *Legs* fairly long.

Long. 2.5–2.7 mm.

♀. Colour, general structure, sculpture, and hairs, as in ♂.

Mandibles slightly longer; *ocelli* rather small, situated on a small prominence on vertex of head; *eyes* large. *Thorax* broader and more convex; anterior angles of *pronotum* prominent; *suture* between pro- and mesonotum deep; *mesonotum* convex; *scutellum* convex, rather prominent; spines of *epinotum* stouter.

Long. 2.8 mm.

Described from a number of workers and two dealated females from Mauritius. All collected by Mr. Raymond Mamet as follows:—

No. 8. On Le Pouce Mt., 15 ♂♂, nesting in old, rotten tree stump, 24. xii. 1942. No. 12. Ditto, 36 ♂♂, and larvæ, 13. xi. 1943. No. 19. On Corps de Garde Mt.,

10 ♂♂, and 1 deälated ♀; caught on tree trunk, 17. i. 1944. No. 20. On Corps de Garde Mt., nesting in tree trunk, 55 ♀♀, larvæ and pupæ, 1 deälated ♀. No. 28. "Collected on Cocotte Mt." 18 ♀♀, 24. i. 1942.

Type and ♀ type in B.M. Coll.

Subfamily *DOLICHODERINÆ*.

Iridomyrmex vinsoni, sp. n.

♂. Shining black, with a distinct bluish metallic reflection in some lights, base of scape, knees and tarsi pale yellow.

Head long oval, longer than broad, narrower in front than behind, posterior angles rounded, posterior border slightly excised in centre; *mandibles* large, broad, triangular, with a few fairly large shallow punctures, masticatory border armed with four blunt teeth, and a long, sharp apical one; *clypeus* large, convex on disc, anterior border widely, but not deeply excised, sinuate at sides, forming a rather sharp angle with central area; *frontal area* triangular, small, not very distinctly defined; *frontal carinæ* short, flat, widely separated, divergent behind; *eyes* large, oval, rather flat, situated above sides, in about centre of head; *antennæ* 12-jointed, *scape* not quite reaching posterior border of head, *funiculus* with all the joints longer than broad, gradually increasing in breadth, last joint as long as the two preceding taken together. *Thorax* longer than broad, broadest about centre of pronotum; *pronotum* convex, narrowed to apex, forming a neck, sides rounded and finely margined, suture between pronotum and mesonotum fine, shallow, but distinct; *mesonotum* not very convex, slightly longer than broad, anterior border and sides straight, spiracles not very prominent, suture between mesonotum and epinotum deep, well marked; *epinotum* convex, rounded above, sides straight, angle between dorsal surface and declivity well marked, dorsal surface longer than declivity, declivity concave. *Scale of petiole* slightly inclined forward, thin, rounded above, sides rounded, narrowed to base, anterior and posterior surfaces flat; *gaster* convex, oval, pointed at apex.

Long. 2.8–3 mm.

No. 83. Described from four workers taken by J. Vinson at Les Mares, Mauritius, January 15, 1938.

Type in B.M. Coll.

Subfamily *FORMICINÆ*.*Pseudolasius dodo*, sp. n.

♀. Reddish yellow, shining, gaster somewhat darker, whole body furnished with longer and shorter outstanding hairs.

Head a little longer than broad, sides and posterior angles rounded, posterior border excised in middle, *mandibles* long, rather narrow, masticatory border armed with six teeth, counting from the base first longer than second, third longer than first and fourth, fifth as long as third, but sharper, apical tooth longer and sharper than the rest; *clypeus* large, triangular, convex, anterior border straight, widely but slightly excised in middle, sinuate at sides, posterior border round, narrowly excised in middle; *clypeal foveæ* not confluent with *antennal foveæ*; *frontal area* not clearly defined; *frontal carinæ* short, almost straight and parallel; *eyes* black, moderate, round, situated on dorsal surface and about the centre of sides of head; *antennæ* fairly long, 12-jointed, *scape* extending a little beyond posterior border of head, *funiculus* with first joint longer and broader than those immediately following, last four joints longer and slightly broader than the rest, the first three of which are subequal in length, last joint longer than the two preceding taken together; *palpi* short, *maxillary palpi* 5-jointed, *labial palpi* 3-jointed. *Thorax* robust, longer than broad, broadest about centre of pronotum, narrower than head; *pronotum* transverse, convex, anterior border and sides rounded and narrowly margined; *mesonotum* round oval, convex, projecting; *metanotum* narrow, transverse, broader at sides, spiracles situated on each side of disc; *epinotum* large, transverse, convex, angle between dorsal surface and declivity rounded, declivity longer than dorsal surface, rather flat, spiracles round, somewhat prominent; *scale of petiole* erect, narrow, longer than broad, sides straight, anterior and posterior surfaces flat, upper surface straight, anterior angles abruptly rounded; *gaster* short, broad oval, rounded anteriorly, and somewhat overhanging scale, bluntly pointed posteriorly.

Long. 2.7-3 mm.

No. 81. Described from 24 ♂♂, taken on Le Pouce Mt., Mauritius, December 7, 1940, by J. Vinson.

Type in B.M. Coll.