

From the ANNALS AND MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
 Ser. 11, vol. xiii. p. 283, April 1946.

19476  
 1947A

*New Species of Ants from China and Mauritius.*  
 By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S. Lond., etc.

**Formicidæ.**

Subfamily *PONERINÆ*.

*Ponera grandis*, sp. n.

♂. Reddish brown, head darker, mandibles, antennæ, and legs lighter. Whole body clothed with sparse yellow pubescence, more abundant on gaster.

*Head* subquadrate, sides slightly rounded, posterior angles rounded, posterior border almost straight, sculpture rather closely and finely rugous; *mandibles* long, triangular, with a row of punctures along masticatory border near teeth, masticatory border armed with eight teeth, the apical one being long and pointed; *clypeus* narrow, transverse, anterior border very slightly emarginate in centre, sinuate at sides; *frontal carinæ* short, flat, with a double lobe in front covering the insertion of the antennæ, convergent behind; *frontal furrow* narrow and rather faint, separating the frontal carinæ; *antennæ* 12-jointed, *scape* not quite reaching posterior border of head, *funiculus* gradually increasing in breadth to apex and not forming a distinct club, last joint pointed, as long as the two preceding taken together; *eyes* small, consisting of only eight ommatidia, situated before middle of sides of head. *Thorax* longer than broad, broader in front than behind; *pronotum* large, transverse, convex, puncturation not so close as on head, encircling mesonotum; *suture* between pro- and mesonotum deep and rather wide; *mesonotum* convex, transverse, much shorter than pronotum; *suture* between meso- and epinotum obsolete, represented by a shallow furrow; *epinotum* long, slightly constricted at sides, *dorsal surface* less closely punctured than pro- and mesonotum, longer than declivity, angle between dorsal surface and declivity well marked, *declivity* triangular, flat, smooth; *node of petiole* high, bluntly pointed above, anterior surface

slightly concave, posterior surface flat, sculpture as in epinotum. *Gaster* rather long, subparallel, basal surface slightly concave, *suture* between post-petiole and rest of *gaster* well marked.

*Long.* 5.5 mm.

Type in British Museum (Natural History).

Described from a single worker: Yen Bay, Tonkin. Collected in a nest of termites by Prof. F. Silvestri.

*Ponera silvestrii*, sp. n.

♂.—Pale reddish yellow, more or less shining, whole body clothed with sparse yellow pubescence.

*Head* longer than broad, subparallel, posterior angles rounded, posterior border almost straight; *mandibles* long, triangular, masticatory border armed with three sharp teeth towards apex and some short dentules posteriorly, apical tooth long and sharp; *clypeus* narrow, transverse, convex on disc, anterior border slightly projecting in centre; *frontal carinæ* furnished with small lobes in front, divergent behind; *frontal* furrow dividing frontal carinæ; *antennæ* 12-jointed, scape extending very slightly beyond posterior border of head, *funiculus* gradually increasing in breadth to apex, no distinct club, first joint slightly longer than second, last joint long, pointed, slightly longer than the two preceding taken together; *eyes* wanting. *Thorax* longer than broad, broader in front than behind; *pronotum* large, convex, rounded in front and at sides, encircling mesonotum; *mesonotum* transverse, convex; *sutures* between pro- and mesonotum, and meso- and epinotum well marked; *epinotum* long, sloping, angle between dorsal surface and declivity rather blunt, *dorsal surface* longer than declivity, *declivity* slightly concave, smooth; *node of petiole* large, rather thick, bluntly pointed at apex, anterior surface somewhat concave, posterior surface flat. *Gaster* subparallel, *suture* between post-petiole and rest of *gaster* well marked. *Legs* fairly long, posterior pairs of tibiae furnished with only one spur.

*Long.* 3.7–4 mm.

♀.—Colour and general structure as in ♂, pubescence slightly more apparent.

*Head* slightly longer and more parallel than in ♂; *eyes* fairly large; *ocelli* small. *Thorax*: *scutum* of mesonotum rather large and flat; *præscutellum* very narrow in centre; *scutellum* rather small and flat; *metanotum*

narrow, transverse; *epinotum* and *scale of node* as in ♀; *gaster* larger and broader.

*Long.* 4.2 mm.

Type, and ♀ type in British Museum (Natural History).

Described from two workers and one dealated female taken by Professor Silvestri in a termites nest at Yen Bay, Tonkin.

#### Subfamily MYRMICINÆ.

##### *Pheidole (Pheidole) tardus*, sp. n.

♀. In general structure a typical *Pheidole (Pheidole)*. Head, thorax, and pedicel reddish yellow, antennæ and legs lighter, gaster yellowish brown, first segment a little lighter. Clothed with rather long, somewhat decumbent, yellow hairs, somewhat more abundant on gaster; *clypeus* large, triangular, smooth and shining; *antennæ* 12-jointed, the 3-jointed club not quite as long as rest of funiculus, last joint as long as the two preceding taken together. *Pronotum* with shoulders sharply angled; teeth of *epinotum* not long, but sharp and divergent; sides of *post-petiole* projecting in a moderately long point.

*Long.* 4.8 mm.

Type in British Museum (Natural History).

Described from a single dealated female. Mauritius, Rose Hill, 7. vi. 46 (*Mamet*). "A somewhat slow species." This ant may be the female of a described species, but the workers are probably very small.

#### Subfamily DOLICHODERINÆ.

##### *Tapinoma pomonæ*, sp. n.

♂. Head, front part of thorax, tarsi, and base of scapes yellow, rest of body, antennæ, and legs, dirty blackish yellow, eyes black, body, especially head and thorax, somewhat shining. *Head* slightly longer than broad, sides subparallel, posterior angles rounded, posterior border slightly excised; *mandibles* small, triangular, masticatory border armed with three sharp teeth at apex; *clypeus* convex, anterior border narrowly excised in middle, sinuate at sides; *frontal carinæ* short, parallel, wide apart, divergent behind; *antennæ* 11-jointed, *scape* not reaching posterior border of head, *funiculus* gradually increasing in breadth to apex, first joint slightly longer and broader than second, last joint equal in length to the two preceding taken together; *maxillary palpi* 6-jointed; *labial palpi*

3-jointed (usually 4-jointed in *Tapinoma*); *eyes* fairly large, round, not very prominent, situated at top, in front of centre, of sides of head. *Thorax* longer than broad, narrower than head and gaster, broadest anteriorly; *pronotum* rounded in front and at sides, convex on disc; *mesonotum* round oval, rather flat, shorter than pronotum, *sutures* between pronotum and mesonotum, and mesonotum and epinotum, shallow and narrow but distinct; *epinotum* convex on disc, angle between dorsal surface and declivity, blunt, but distinct, declivity longer than dorsal surface; *scale of petiole* entirely rudimentary; *gaster* oval, longer than thorax, only four segments visible above, first segment overlapping petiole. *Legs* rather short, *femora* rather broad.

*Long.* 2.2 mm.

Type in British Museum (Natural History).

Described from nine workers collected in "navel" of an orange from South Africa; Mauritius, 24. vi. 46 (*R. Mamet*). No. 103.