

Tribe MERANOPLINI.

Meranoplus astericus, sp. n.

♀. Blackish brown, legs and antennæ lighter, gaster black; clothed with rather numerous, fairly long and close, soft, brownish yellow outstanding hairs.

Head broader behind than in front, about as long as broad, broadest a little before eyes, posterior border almost straight, posterior angles rounded; sculpture consisting of slightly raised narrow longitudinal ridges, and similar transverse ones, forming an uneven network; *mandibles* short, stout, longitudinally striate, masticatory border armed with a few rather blunt, short teeth; *clypeus* transverse, not very convex, anterior and posterior borders rounded, two fine narrow longitudinal ridges are present on each side; *frontal carinæ* widely separated, extending to base of head, and forming the upper margins of deep scrobes above the eyes, for the reception of the antennæ; *antennæ* 9-jointed, club large, three-jointed last joint long, pointed, as long as the two preceding taken together; *eyes* round, prominent, situated at sides of head near posterior angles. *Thorax*: *pro-mesonotum* short and broad, raised, sculpture consisting of a network of slightly raised narrow ridges, the ground work being smooth and shining; no *pro-mesonotal suture* present. anterior angles armed with two spines joined together, the upper long and sharp, the lower short and blunt, posterior angles armed with two long, sharp spines, the upper one being the shorter, projecting outwards and slightly downwards, the lower long and straight, projecting backwards; *epinotum* long, flat, smooth and shining, sloping downwards, considerably lower than *pro-mesonotum*, armed with two fine short sharp spines, or teeth, at angle, which is slight, between dorsal surface and declivity, declivity shorter than dorsal surface. *Petiole* with a rather high bluntly pointed node, rounded above, anterior surface flat or slightly concave, posterior surface convex rounded; *post-petiole* broader than petiole, globular, with a high rounded node, sculpture consisting of a fine raised network of ridges; *gaster* rather large broad ovate, slightly convex above and below, excised at junction with post-petiole, bluntly pointed at