

NOTONCUS HICKMANI, n. sp.

(Text-fig. 1, No. 14.)

Worker.—Length, 4.5-5.3 mm.

Yellowish red. Legs lighter. Gaster blackish brown.

Shining. Mandibles finely striate. Clypeus longitudinally striate in the middle, obliquely so on the sides. The striae are longitudinal between the frontal carinae, curving outward behind and encircling the antennal fovea in front. Behind the eyes the head is smooth and shining, with faint indications of striae. Pronotum irregularly striate-rugose, fine and longitudinal in the centre, coarser and diverging outward behind on the sides. Mesonotum smooth. Epinotum finely and transversely striate behind, the striae diverging obliquely on the sides. Node and gaster smooth.

Hair yellow, erect, rather fine and abundant throughout. Pubescence very fine and sparse, more abundant on the gaster than elsewhere.

Head slightly longer than broad, convex behind and on the sides. Frontal carinae short, almost parallel, very slightly longer than their distance apart. Clypeus broad and convex, projecting and rounded in front. Eyes large and convex, placed behind the centre of the sides. Scapes extending beyond the occipital border by one sixth of their length; first segment of the funiculus twice as long as the second. Mandibles large, armed with eight large sharp teeth. Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum twice as broad as long, the dorsum depressed longitudinally in the middle, the anterior angles and sides bluntly raised. Mesonotum rather small, wider in front than behind, strongly convex above. A wide constriction between the mesonotum and epinotum, the spiracles large, placed on the middle of the constriction. Epinotum short, longer than broad; in profile the dorsum straight, the declivity straight and at an obtuse angle, much longer than the dorsum. Node scale-like, fully three times broader than long, the top edge sharp, bluntly pointed laterally; in profile wedge-shaped, bluntly pointed above. Gaster longer than broad. Legs slender.

Female.—Length, 5.5 mm.

Colour and pilosity as in the worker. Sculpture a little coarser. Eyes larger. Ocelli prominent. Pronotum short, feebly shouldered. Mesonotum large, parapsidal furrows deeply impressed. Scutellum large and convex, truncate behind. Epinotal declivity three times longer than the dorsum. Node distinctly concave, or feebly bidentate, above. Wings missing. The rest as in the worker.

Habitat.—Tasmania: Trevallyn (V. V. Hickman).

This species, the first of the genus to be recorded from Tasmania, is dedicated to Mr. Hickman, the Tasmanian Arachnologist, to whom I am indebted for many rare species of ants from that State.