

FIG. 16. *Lasius crinitus*, worker profile.

populations are compared (for example, Tenerife: SSC 37–45; Malta: SSC 45–55).

Some central Asiatic populations, including part of the Himalayan material, have considerably more elongate eyes than European populations; however, there is no clear split within the Himalayan material on the basis of this character. Several specimens show a considerable elongation of the scape (SI = 105) compared with typical European *niger* populations (SI generally less than 103) but a similar elongation occurs in populations from the Balearic Is, North Africa, Malta and the Canary Is.

***Lasius alienoflavus* Bingham 1903** (Figs. 5 and 12)

**Diagnosis.** Worker. A small yellowish brown species characterized by thick pubescence which is especially abundant and subdecumbent on the appendages, sparser and often dendritic on the gaster. Eyes are relatively larger and the maxillary palps relatively longer than in most species of the *L. flavus* species-group. This species is so far known only from the Himalayas.

**Description.** Worker. Yellowish brown. Head small, rather square, with broadly emarginate occipital border. Head at sides,

alitrunk and appendages thickly clothed with subdecumbent pubescence and occasional longer hairs. Eyes with hairs. Some longer body hairs on mesonotum.

Funiculus segments 2–5 subrectangular, slightly longer than broad. Eyes relatively large, ommatidia 35–45. Maxillary palps long with segments 5 and 6 subequal. Length 2.75–3.0 mm. Mean EL 0.1 mm, EW 0.1 mm, HW 0.75–0.85 mm, SI 91.5–93. Petiole width 0.218–0.258 mm 100 × PW; HW 22–26.

Female (after Bingham, 1903). 'Much larger, dark brown, alitrunk remarkably large, shape of head as worker; petiole broadly emarginate above'.

Male. Unknown.

**Distribution.** Himalayas, North India (Bingham, 1903). PAKISTAN: Nathia Gall, Bara Gall, Chikar, Chopal, Murree, Kawai Khagan, Daksum, 1600–2300 m, ♀♀ (NHMB). BHUTAN: Wangdi Phodran, ♀♀ (NHMB). NEPAL: Talphi-Jumla, 25.ix.72 (*H. Franz*) ♀♀ (NHMB).

**Discussion.** This interesting species is in many respects midway between the *niger* and the *flavus* species-groups in eye size and length of palpal segments. However, Wilson (1955) considered it to be a member of the *flavus* group and assigned it to the subgenus *Chthonolasius*. Collections were made from