

to Korea and Japan, has a large gap in its known distribution between South-west Europe and Eastern Asia. The two old records from West India (remarkable in being far to the south of other *Lasius* records) and its very wide geographical range suggest that *fuliginosus* should occur in the Himalayas.

Workers of this species are relatively conspicuous, moving in open files in daytime but normally in semi-shade. Nests are of carton constructed in the base of old trees, hedges, rows and walls.

### *Lasius bicornis* (Foerster, 1850)

*Diagnosis.* Species in the *Lasius umbratus* group distinguished by the deeply indented bicornuate petiole, sparse but long gaster hairs and absence of genal or appendage hairs. The small size of queens and males distinguish *bicornis* from *L. affinis* Mayr.

*Description.* Worker. Pale clear yellow; head width 1.02–1.10 mm, petiole narrow, tapering with deeply indented bicornuate crest. Gaster hairs sparse; genal, scape and tibial hairs entirely absent.

Female. Size small compared with worker and with other species of *umbratus* group – head width 1.24–1.25 mm, wider than alitrunk. Petiole and pilosity as in worker.

Male. Size small, head width 0.96 mm, as wide as alitrunk. Petiole deeply emarginate. Scapes and tibiae bare.

*Himalayan distribution.* KASHMIR: 1 ♀ Daksun, 13.vii.76 (Wittmer) (NHMB). Kashmir (Wilson, 1955), Tibet (Menozzi, 1939).

*General distribution.* A rather rare Eurasian species recorded from France to the Himalayas and from Italy to South Sweden. *Diagnosis* and synonyms given by Wilson (1955) and further description and locality records given by Poldi (1962). This species has been taken in rotten stumps and fallen timber in Europe.

### *Lasius crinitus* Smith, 1858 (Figs. 8 and 16–21)

*Diagnosis.* Known only from the Himalayas where it is locally common with alatae frequently taken in light traps. This is the largest known species of *Lasius* with females having a

head width of up to 2 mm. All castes have very long, curved body hairs which are specially numerous on the petiole and the basal face of the gaster. The petiole has broadly rounded dorsolateral corners tapering to a convex dorsal crest.

*Description.* Worker. Reddish yellow; head width 1.12–1.24 mm. Petiole in front view broadly rounding to convex dorsal crest which in some specimens have a narrow, shallow median incision. Body hairs long and coarse, length 0.18–0.23 mm. Legs without projecting hairs except on coxae; scapes with short suberect pubescence. Occipital hairs restricted to median area. Eyes hairy. Gaster pubescence moderately dense.

Female. Pale yellowish brown to brown, wings infusate. Size exceptionally large, head width 1.9–2.1 mm; pronotal width 1.75–1.88 mm. Alitrunk and gaster with numerous long fine curved hairs, specially dense on petiole, shorter and sparser on head; eye hairs long and conspicuous. Petiole broadly rounded in front view, tapering in side view.

Male. Brown, wings infusate. Head as wide as alitrunk. HW 1.12–1.25 mm. Mandibles large with broad masticatory border, with seven denticles and offset basal tooth. Petiole in front view with sides broadly rounding to unbroken convex dorsal crest. Pubescence moderately dense, especially on first gaster tergite. Pilosity as in queen but less abundant, more sparse on head; eyes with long hairs. Appendages pubescent only, without suberect hairs.

*Distribution.* SIKKIM, KASHMIR (Wilson, 1955). BHUTAN: Puntsholing, Thimpu, Para, Gogona, Tangu, Gimakotl, Wangdi, 2000–3000 m (NHMB). NEPAL: Junbesi (Collingwood, 1971) Arun river valley, Duna, 25.v.73 (NHMB); Bdota 3000 m, 14.iv.1973 (Lay) (NHMB). INDIA: Darjeeling, Chimkona (NHMB).

*Discussion.* Alatae were taken sometimes in large numbers at night, implying a nocturnal flight behaviour during the months of May and June. One colony series was taken by D. M. Lay in a rotten log. Other worker series were taken in soil and in leaf litter.

This species was linked with *L. carniolicus* by Wilson (1955), because of the tapering rounded petiole, but its affinities are more