

anterior and posterior faces. Scale in frontal view with almost straight, converging sides and a pointed, non-emarginate apex. Frontal area and tarsi inflated.

Body colour moderately shining and entirely pale yellow, much paler than in any other known Himalayan species. Anterior clypeal border and mandibles brown. Integument smoothly punctate and very finely reticulate. The whole body is covered by fine, silky and adpressed pubescence. Antennae and legs entirely destitute of standing hairs. Some sparse whitish subdecumbent hairs on the frons, in number never exceeding 6–7 on the full cephalic profile. Analogous hairs (but often longer, suberect and curved) visible on the dorsal outline of the alitrunk and concentrated on the median areas of the pronotum, mesonotum and propodeum. 4–6 standing straight hairs on the external border of the scale. Gaster sparsely covered with adpressed straight hairs partly arranged in files at the border of every tergite.

Material examined. Holotype ♀, ASSAM: Kharangma (Mikir Hills), 21.xii.1963, (*Rajagopal*) (ZSI). Paratypes. 6 ♀♀ with same data as holotype. (Zoological Survey of India, Shillong; NHMB; CC.)

Discussion. *L. mikir* is clearly related to *crinitus* in body size, pilosity and scale shape but is distinguishable by the much less abundant pilosity on the head and coxae, the paler colour and shape of the scale. The discovery of *mikir* in Assam is of great interest as it is a definite record of a *Lasius* species inhabiting a tropical environment. Unfortunately, no information is available about the particular habitat in which the specimens were collected but, as the related species *L. crinitus* is often found inhabiting leaf litter in the alpine

Himalayan zone, *mikir* may also be a specialized litter inhabitant.

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