

the anterior end of the mesothorax. Terminal abdominal segment forming a small knob directed postero-ventrally. Tubercles sparse (72); fungiform, door-knob-shaped or irregular. Body and head hairs lacking. Antennae very small and situated high on the head, each with two sensilla. Mandibles falcate; base not dilated; without spinules or medial teeth; apex directed posteriorly, simulating the mouthhooks of maggots. Labial palps lateral.

Simopelta belongs to the section Euponerinae of the subfamily Ponerinae; the larvae of this section are characterized by having body tubercles. The tubercles of *Simopelta* appear somewhat similar to the glutinous dorsal tubercles of *Ponera* and *Euponera*, but otherwise there is little resemblance to other members of the tribe Ponerini. Head shape, high antennae, and the lack of hairs on the head suggest *Leptogenys* in the tribe Leptogenyini. On the other hand, *Simopelta* is unique among known ant larvae in (1) the general shape of the body and the shape of the thorax in particular; (2) the partial retractability of the prothorax; (3) complete absence of hairs; and (4) the shape and position of the mandibles. The lateral position of the labial palps is unusual but not unique.

***Simopelta pergandei* (Forel)**

Young larva—Straight length 1.6 mm; length through spiracles 1.7 mm. Body rather stout and nearly straight. Diameter greatest at abdominal somite IV, decreasing gradually to the posterior end, which would be broadly rounded were it not for the terminal somite that forms a small knob directed posteroventrally; decreasing anteriorly to the anterior end of the abdomen, then increasing to the mesothorax. Prothorax conoidal and capable of being retracted to a limited extent into the mesothorax; basal diameter (in preserved material) abruptly reduced from the diameter of the anterior end of the mesothorax, giving an offset appearance. Head on the anterior end. Anus posteroventral. Leg and gonopod vestiges present. Segmentation indistinct. Body beset with 72 tubercles which are fungiform, doorknob-shaped, or irregular (in preserved material). Tubercles arranged in 8 longitudinal rows; the mesothoracic through the seventh abdominal somite each bearing 8 tubercles. Segmentation indistinct. Integument thickly beset with minute papillae (about 0.0012 mm in diameter). No body hairs. Cranium longer than broad; widest at the bases of the mandibles; dorsal outline rounded. Head with 10 small sensilla but no hairs. Antennae very small and high on the cranium; each with 2 sensilla, each of which bears a minute spinule. Labrum narrow, slightly longer than broad, thick; the blunt ventral surface with 8 sensilla; each lateral surface with 1 sensillum; posterior surface spinulose, the spinules rather long (about 0.009 mm) and arranged in subtransverse rows, the rows so close together that their spinules overlap. Mandibles heavily sclerotized; falcate; base not dilated; without medial teeth; surfaces smooth; apex directed posteriorly. Maxillae not distinctly marked off from the head; the apex bearing a few long slender spinules; palp a low knob with 1 lateral (bearing a spinule) and 3 terminal (2 small with a spinule each and 1 large and encapsulated) sensilla; galea a tall frustum bearing 2 apical sensilla. Anterior surface of labium spinulose, the spinules long and in subtransverse rows, the rows so close together