

TWO NEW SPECIES OF *METAPONA*
FROM MADAGASCAR

(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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The two species herewith described belong to an interesting and bizarre genus of ants comprising a distinct tribe, the *Metaponini*, of the subfamily Myrmicinae. Up to 1953 (Smith), 13 species of *Metapona* had been described, and though these ants have a wide distribution in the Oriental and Australian Regions, they seem to be sporadic in occurrence and very rare. It is with considerable significance then that the group should turn up on the Island of Madagascar, and not surprising that it should be represented there by completely new species. A list of the known forms, with the localities from which they were first collected, appears at the end of this paper. The specimens upon which this report is based were obtained from Dr. Alfred E. Emerson, in whose collection of termites they were residing. The ants are said to be associated at times with termites in rotting wood, and presumably the individuals in this sample were collected in such a situation. It is a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. Emerson as the source of this material.

Metapona madagascariensis sp. nov.

Worker.—Length, 6.91 mm.; head length (excluding mandibles), 1.50 mm.; head width, 1.08 mm.; head index, 0.72; thorax length, 1.83 mm.

Head, even without the mandibles, distinctly longer than broad (about 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ times longer than broad), widest in the occipital region and tapering concavely to the mandibular insertions where it is narrowest; occipital margin broadly and shallowly excavated, and concave. Head decidedly convex antero-posteriorly as well as transversely; gula convex; median cephalic groove very weakly indicated, becoming obsolete on the clypeus where it is replaced by a low, rounded carina, posterad. Frontal area absent, its position taken by a broad, curved epistomal suture which delimits the posterior border of the clypeus, and extends between the widely separated frontal carinae. The carinae are straight, parallel, and prominent where they cross the clypeus as trenchant ridges to its anterior margin, abruptly divergent and almost transverse at the antennal insertions, and again turning sharply backward through right angles, and continuing posteriorly to the region of the vertex, flaring slightly. The surfaces of the head below the carinae are broadly concave, forming shallow but distinct antennal scrobes, bounded and overhung by the carinae, though open ventrally. Median lobe of clypeus nearly quadrate, weakly and concavely truncate anterior to its small carina, and bidentate, that is, armed with two, small, blunt teeth projecting forward, and separated by a distance equal to the base of either. Lateral clypeal lobes narrow, sinuate, convex, and separated from the genae by faint lines continuous with the median portion of the epistomal suture. Ocelli absent; no ocellar pits. Compound eyes reduced to mere vestiges composed of 6 to 8 very minute and indistinct ommatidia; located on the sides of the head, at a point barely