

*Female*: Length, 9.09 mm.; head length (excluding mandibles), 1.54 mm.; head width, 1.12 mm.; head index, 0.73; thorax length, 2.67 mm. (deälate).

The female caste is so similar in many ways to the worker in this genus that one is reminded of the parallel situation in ponerine genera. It is, therefore, necessary to point out only the salient features of the queen which separates it from the worker caste. There follows a brief diagnosis.

The female is winged, although the single adult specimen before me had become deälate, so fully expanded wings for description are lacking. Three pupae, however, have well-developed wing sacs. The female caste differs from the worker by its overall large size, the cephalic and thoracic striae or rugules which are a trifle coarser, the presence of large, flat, oval, compound, eyes at the middle of the sides of the head, composed of a great number of ommatidia (longest diameter of the eye slightly less than the distance from its anterior edge to the insertion of the mandible), three distinct ocelli on the vertex, and the anterior clypeal teeth which are smaller and blunter. A pronounced, arcuate pro-mesonotal suture is present, the mesoscutum has distinct parapsidal furrows, the scutellum is separated by a well-marked suture, and the metanotum is distinguished by deeply impressed boundaries. The epinotum shows the posterior corners rounded (denticles reduced to slight carinae), and the basal face is rounded, passing gradually into the declivity without an angle, the whole segment narrower than in the worker. Petiole and postpetiole are smaller and both are more quadrate than the corresponding segments of the worker, where they are slightly transverse. Dorsal surfaces of both are furnished with fine, curved, transverse striae. The pleurae, and sides of the petiole and postpetiole have enough minute interstitial sculpture to cause a faint dullness to the otherwise shining surface. Pilosity over most of the body is sparser, especially on the gaster. Whether this is natural or due to a worn specimen, it is impossible to tell at present.

In Wheeler's key to the species of *Metapone* (1919), this ant runs to couplet 5 because of the bluntly bidentate clypeus. At the time this key was produced, there were two species known having the character mentioned, and *madagascarica* may be distinguished from them in the following manner.

From *tillyardi* it differs by larger size (6.91 vs. 5.5-6 mm.), a more quadrate petiole which is somewhat more excavated behind, by a rectangular and transverse (rather than oval) postpetiole, and in color which is dark reddish brown to black on thorax and head in contrast to castaneous brown of *tillyardi*. The head is proportionately longer also (1.38 vs. about 1.25 times as long as broad).

From *bakeri* it can be separated by a relatively longer head (1.38 vs. less than 1.25 times as long as broad), the presence of five rather than four mandibular teeth, a posterior clypeal suture, striate sculpture of the body (in contrast to smooth), petiole less deeply excised behind, shorter and stouter legs with more inflated femora, red-brown color instead of black, and a difference in size, which is indeed very notable (9.1 vs. 6.4 mm.). It should be stated that these comparisons are between the females of the two species owing to absence of the worker of *bakeri* which has yet to be discovered. The differences in