

Ankylomyrma gen. n.

Worker: Mandibles dentate; palp formula 5, 3. Clypeus of the Meranopline pattern, raised medially and projecting as a bluntly bilobed shelf over the basal borders of the mandibles. Antennae 12-segmented, without a distinctly differentiated club, the funicular segments gradually increasing in size distally. Eyes well developed, situated at the posterolateral corners of the head; ocelli absent. Frontal carinae prolonged backwards to the occipital margin and forming the dorsal margins of a weak antennal scrobe. Scrobe bounded below by a ridge running from below the eye to the mandibular insertions. Occipital margin of the head fringed with a continuous transverse lamella which projects posteriorly into numerous spiniform and dentiform processes (fig. 1), and behind which the occiput is vertical.

Dorsum of alitrunk devoid of sutures. On the sides the promesonotal suture is visible to the height of the spiracle. A transverse suture is present dividing the mesopleuron into an- and katapisterna, and the suture separating the meso- and metapleurae is developed. A broad, longitudinal groove is present on the metapleuron just above the hind coxa, leading posteriorly to the orifice of the metapleural gland (fig. 3). Promesonotum with four pairs of tubercles or broad teeth; propodeum with a pair of spines. Petiole with a short, broad peduncle, armed above with a pair of spines; postpetiole unarmed.

Gaster consisting almost entirely of the massively enlarged and extremely strongly vaulted first tergite (figs. 2, 3). The first gastral sternite is reduced to a narrow, fringing rim around the forward-pointing orifice of the tergite, and the remaining gastral segments are telescoped inside. The sting is well developed and projects anteriorly, below the pedicel.

Queen and male unknown.

Type and only known species, *Ankylomyrma coronacantha* sp. n. from Ghana, described below.

Ankylomyrma coronacantha sp. n. (figs. 1-3)

Holotype worker: total length 4.6; head length 1.44 from anterior clypeal margin to median point of occipital margin; head width 1.42 at maximum; cephalic index 92; scape length 1.02 excluding the basal constriction; scape index 139; pronotal width 1.14 at maximum; length of alitrunk (Weber's L.) 1.50 excluding the cervical shield; maximum width of first gastral tergite 1.51 in dorsal view (all measurements in mm).

Mandibles with four teeth visible, probably with five actually present, the apical tooth the largest, decreasing in size posteriorly. Median portion of clypeus raised, strongly projecting over the mandibles and bluntly bilobed anteromedially, concealing the mandibles from full-face view. The lateral portions of the clypeal suture are absent, but between the frontal carinae the median portion of the suture is apparent as a shallowly impressed, arcuate line. Frontal carinae widely separated, divergent posteriorly and then passing through an angular prominence. Behind this they are continued to the occipital margin by a pair of approximately parallel raised ridges. Eyes well developed, maximum diameter ca. 0.36mm, situated in the posterolateral corners of the head capsule. Below the eye, a ridge forming the ventral margin of the shallow antennal scrobe and the lateral margin of the head in full-face view, runs to the mandibular insertion. Between the frontal carina and this ventral ridge are a pair of short, longitudinal carinae. The first arises below the posteriormost point of the antennal socket and runs for about 0.40 mm towards the eye; the second is situated below the first but arises from the clypeal margin and ends at about the midlength of the first carina. Occipital margin with a transverse, translucent lamella which is raised into numerous teeth and spines and is continuous below the eye on each side with the ridge forming the ventral scrobal margin. Antennal scapes curved shallowly backwards at the base, their leading edges weakly serrate.

Pro- and mesonotum fused dorsally, in profile broadly dome shaped, the mesonotum sloping behind to the short propodeum; the dorsum of the latter being noticeably on a lower level than the dorsalmost point of the promesonotum. Metanotal groove absent. The alitrunk is armed as follows: Pronotum: dorsally with a pair of broad, blunt tubercles; dorsolaterally, just anterior to the pro- mesonotal junction, with a pair of broad, acute teeth; humeral angles bluntly denate; anterolateral pronotal angles drawn out into a bluntly rounded tooth. Mesonotum: laterally, at the point where the sclerite begins to slope to the propodeum, with a pair of broad, acute