teeth. Propodeum: the entire dorsal face is used as a base for a pair of long, divergent, posteriorly directed, slightly curved, acute spines. On the legs, the apex of each tibia is armed with a pair of dentiform processes dorsally; on the middle and hind legs each tibia with a single, simple spur ventrally.

Petiole armed with a pair of divergent, acute spines which point posteriorly. In profile the peduncle short, rounding into the dorsal face of the node. Subpetiolar process a small, broadly triangular tooth situated towards the anterior end of the peduncle. In dorsal view the petiole gradually broadening from front to back, its maximum width ca. 0.50 mm. Postpetiole much broader (0.93 mm at maximum), about twice broader than long in dorsal view.

The gaster massive, subglobose, consisting chiefly of the tremendously enlarged first tergite which has developed into a subspherical ball, opening anteriorly below the postpetiole. The first sternite is visible as a narrow collar around the ventral portion of this orifice and the remaining tegites and sternites are telescoped together inside this closed system. The well developed sting projects anteriorly from the orifice.

All surfaces of the head, body and appendages with thick, erect, yellowish hairs. Pubescence is limited to the appendages, and is much more dense upon the funiculi than upon the legs.

Mandibles very finely and densely longitudinally striate, the teeth themselves smooth and shiny. Dorsum of head between the frontal carinae and between the ridges which extend to the occipital margin very coarsely reticulate-rugose, the bases of the reticulae finely shagreened and dully shining. Clypeal apron and scrobal areas on sides of head very finely reticulate, as is the occipital surface of the head. Dorsum of promesonotum with sculpturation similar to that of dorsum of head; this scupturation continued onto the sides of the pronotum but gradually fading out basally and posteriorly, replaced on the pleurae, the sloping portion of the mesonotum and the propodeum by a fine, dense reticulation. Femora finely and densely reticulate but the tibiae with some reticulo-rugulation. Petiole, postpetiole and gaster coasely foveolate, the interspaces finely and densely reticulate, the bases of the individual foveolae shagreened.

Black, with the mandibles, clypeal apron, antennae, parts of the occipital lamella, the tibiae and tarsi and first gastral sternite orange-brown to red-brown.

Holotype worker, GHANA: Eastern Region, Mt. Atewa; by pyrethrum knockdown, sample A4/3, 12.vii.1969 (*D. Leston*) British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

The specimen was obtained by blowing pyrethrum into the canopy of a tree and collecting the insects thus killed upon white sheets, previously placed around the base and under the canopy of the tree. The locality of the capture, Mount Atewa, is part of a primary forest reserve situated near Kibi, in the eastern region of Ghana. It is believed that a second specimen of this species exists in the collection of Mr. Leston, in the Zoology Department of the University of Ghana, Legon.

As has been pointed out, the structure of the clypeus and propodeum, along with the possession of antennal scrobes, has led to the tentative placement of *Ankylomyrma* amongst the genera constituting the tribe Meranoplini. Whether this placement is correct must await the discovery of further specimens, especially sexuals, of this species.

The most obvious character setting this genus apart from all other myrmicine ants is the unique structure of the gaster. This adaptation of gastral structure is, however, known from a number of genera in the subfamily Ponerinae, where the second gastral segment (homologous with the first in Myrmicinae) is affected. However, in none of these ponerine genera (*Proceratium* Roger, *Discothyrea* Roger, and the *B. nasica* Santschi species group of the genus *Bothroponera* Mayr) is the modification carried so far as in *Ankylomyrma*, and although the first