

DIAGNOSIS OF THE GENUS

PARATOPULA Wheeler

Paratopula Wheeler, 1919: 144. Type-species: *Atopomyrmex ceylonicus* Emery, 1901: 114, by monotypy.

WORKER (figs 1-6).

Palp formula 5,3. Mandibles large and triangular, armed with 8-11 teeth, the teeth decreasing in size from apex to base. Anterior clypeal margin indented medially, lacking a median seta. Median portion of clypeus broad and biconvex, broadly inserted between the frontal lobes. Frontal lobes present, narrow, each lobe distinctly narrower than the portion of the clypeus which is inserted between them. Frontal carinae absent to feebly present, when the latter the carinae represented by rugae running backward from the lobes; antennal scrobes absent. Antennae 12-segmented with a well defined apical club of 3 segments. Eyes slightly in front of midlength of sides of head in full-face view. Alitrunk elongate and low in profile, the promesonotum not domed-convex. Metanotal groove conspicuously impressed. Mesonotum and propodeum of approximately equal width in dorsal view, much narrower than the maximum pronotal width. Propodeum bispinose. Propodeal spiracle low on side (abutting metapleuron), at about the midlength of the sclerite. Metapleural lobes conspicuous, rounded and prominent to hooked. Metasternal process vestigial, represented by a minute peak on each side of the midline; ventral midline and metasternal pit not concealed. Petiolar articulatory cavity on posteroventral alitrunk truncated and transverse at about the midlength of the hind coxal cavities. Femora strongly thickened medially, narrowing basally and apically. Tibial spurs absent from middle and hind legs. Petiolar spiracle situated in front of the midlength of the peduncle, close to the articulation with the alitrunk; petiole nodiform, with an elongate anterior peduncle and small anteroventral process. Postpetiole large, long and low, broad dorsally and narrowly articulated to the first gastral tergite. Sting simple, strong and functional. Cuticle thick and armoured, strongly sculptured with extensive rugation or a rugoreticulum except on gaster; basigastral costulae present. Pilosity present, moderately dense, the individual hairs usually short, either acute or blunt apically.

FEMALE (fig. 11)

As worker except that 3 small ocelli are present and the alitrunk has a full complement of flight sclerites; winged when virgin. The metanotal groove is not as in the worker, and the relative sizes of alitrunk sclerites given above do not apply. Additional characters of females include the following.

Pronotum extensive on dorsal alitrunk, forming a thick collar in front of and to the sides of the mesoscutum. Mesoscutum elongate and narrow, narrowly rounded anteriorly. Parapsidal grooves vestigial to absent. Axillae in dorsal view appearing as a pair of lobes which are more or less fused to the mesoscutellum and which are separated centrally by an anterior triangular projection of the mesoscutellum. Propodeal spines shorter and more obtuse than in the worker. Venation as indicated in fig. 11. Radial (= marginal) cell closed behind the forewing margin. Cross-vein *r-m* absent; veins *Rs* and *M* widely divergent beyond the point of splitting of *Rs+M*, this divergence occurring considerably proximal of the intersection of cross-vein *2r* with vein *Rs*.

MALE (figs 7-10, 12-17)

Palp formula 5, 3 (*in situ* count). Mandibles broad and strongly developed, meeting at midline, with 5-8 teeth which decrease in size from apex to base. Median clypeal seta absent. Median portion of clypeus biconvex. Frontal triangle present and shallowly depressed. Antennae with 13 segments, not clavate apically. Scape elongate, first funicular segment short, second funicular segment elongate, third segment short and with a characteristic kink or indentation in its leading edge; fourth funicular segment slightly longer than third and sometimes also with an indentation. Relative lengths of scape and first four funicular segments are as follows in the four known males.