

2. Mandible triangular, usually with 5 sharp teeth which decrease in size from apex to base; sometimes with a denticle following the third tooth, giving a total dental count of 6.

3. Anterior clypeal margin with a row of stout setae, lacking an isolated median seta.

4. Median portion of clypeus broad and biconvex, posteriorly broadly inserted between the frontal lobes.

5. Frontal lobes relatively narrow, each lobe narrower than the portion of the clypeus which is inserted between them.

6. Torulus projecting beyond margin of frontal lobe, visible in full-face view.

7. Frontal carinae and antennal scrobes absent.

8. Eyes of moderate size, positioned behind the midlength of the sides of the head.

9. Antennae 12-segmented, with a conspicuous 3-segmented apical club.

10. Occipital margin convex and vertex with a broad depressed area between the eyes, depression conspicuous in profile.

11. Alitrunk elongate, the pronotum forming a raised dome in profile behind which the mesonotum forms a long gradual slope to the metanotal groove.

12. Metanotal groove impressed; propodeum unarmed and rounded.

13. Propodeal spiracle high on side, located at or just in front of the midlength of the sclerite.

14. Metapleural lobes vestigial to absent.

15. Metapleural gland bulla large but widely separated from the propodeal spiracle.

16. Metasternal process vestigial to absent.

17. Tibial spurs absent from middle and hind legs or at least not distinguishable from the surrounding pilosity.

18. Petiole pedunculate, the spiracle located at or just in front of the midlength of the peduncle.

19. Postpetiolar sternite large and conspicuous.

20. Sting reduced and desclerotized, exertile but subspatulate apically.

21. Cuticle thick and strong, sculpture weak. Pilosity abundant; eyes with projecting short hairs.

*Female and male.* Unknown.

Type-species: *Kartidris nyos* sp.n.

## Notes

*Kartidris* belongs in the *Pheidole*–*Aphaenogaster*–*Messor*-group of genera, characterized by the high-domed pronotum, elongate sloping mesothorax, anteriorly situated petiolar spiracle, and propodeal spiracle located high on the side and close to the midlength. The mandible of *Kartidris* is specialized by reduction in the number of teeth and the median portion of the clypeus is markedly biconvex.

## Key to workers

- 1 Dorsum of head finely and densely reticulate-granular everywhere, the surface opaque. Dark brown slightly larger species, HW 0.85. (China: Hainan I.) ..... *galos*
- Dorsum of head at most with fine superficial reticulation. Yellow to brownish yellow slightly smaller species, HW 0.73–0.84 ..... 2
- 2 Dorsal alitrunk densely hairy (Fig. 18). First gastral tergite with all hairs suberect. Outline of propodeum immediately behind metanotal groove raised but rounded, not forming a distinct peak. (India) ..... *nyos*
- Dorsal alitrunk sparsely hairy (Fig. 21). First gastral tergite with many hairs decumbent or subdecumbent. Outline of propodeum immediately behind metanotal groove forming a distinct peak. (Thailand) ..... *matertera*

## *Kartidris nyos* sp.n. (Figs 18, 19)

*Holotype worker.* TL 4.4, HL 0.96, HW 0.83, CI 86, SL 0.90, SI 108, PW 0.60, AL 1.24. Maximum diameter of eye 0.21 (0.25 × HW) and with 10–11 ommatidia in the longest row. Mandibles finely longitudinally rugulose. Entire cephalic dorsum with only vestigial sculpture, a very feeble superficial reticulation visible. Median portion of clypeus conspicuously biconvex, without longitudinal carinae. Eyes with abundant anteriorly curved short hairs arising between the facets. Dorsal alitrunk virtually smooth except for the propodeum, which shows weak reticulation. Dorsal outline of propodeum rounded immediately behind the metanotal groove. Sides of pronotum shining, almost unsculptured. Mesopleuron densely sculptured, reticulate-punctate with some fine longitudinal