

*Recurvidris pickburni* sp. n.

(Fig. 5)

Holotype worker. TL 2.1, HL 0.48, HW 0.44, CI 92, SL 0.38, SI 86, PW 0.26, AL 0.58.

Apical margin of mandible with 4 teeth, the basal tooth enlarged but acutely pointed, not abruptly truncated or bidenticulate apically; basal margin of mandible unarmed. Occipital corners broadly and evenly rounded, so much so that the two sides and the occipital border of the head almost form a single even arc in full-face view. Head with superficial reticulation, fading out mid-dorsally. Disc of pronotum smooth and shining, the propodeal dorsum with only faint superficial sculpture. Propodeal spines narrow, the subpetiolar process an elongate triangular tooth. Standing hairs absent from propodeum, where a pair of short decumbent hairs occur, above the site of the spiracle. Colour yellow.

Paratype workers. TL 1.9–2.1, HL 0.48–0.50, HW 0.44–0.46, CI 90–92, SL 0.38–0.40, SI 85–89, PW 0.25–0.26, AL 0.57–0.60 (4 measured). As holotype.

Holotype worker, SRI LANKA: Kandy, 600–700m, 10–13.vii.1955, no. 1240 (*E. O. Wilson*) (MCZ).

Paratypes, 4 workers with same data as holotype but two numbered 1243, and two 1266 (MCZ; BMNH).

*R. pickburni* is characterised by its 4-dentate mandibles, on which the basal tooth is stout and acute. Some of the specimens, including the holotype, show a minute deviation in the posterior outline of the basal tooth. This may indicate that the single point of the tooth has evolved secondarily from an originally bidenticulate condition. If so the present apex of the tooth would represent the original anterior denticle and the deviation in posterior outline the last vestige of the original posterior denticle. The closest relatives of *pickburni* are *hebe* and *recurvispinosa*, but both of these have the basal tooth truncated to bidenticulate (compare Figs. 4, 5).

A worker of *pickburni* forms the basis for Ettershank's (1966: 159, figs. 138, 139) illustration, which is attributed to *recurvispinosa* in his review of the genus.

This species is named in honour of a friend, Bernerd Pickburn, recently deceased.