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## A NEW ANT OF THE GENUS *EPITRITUS* FROM SOUTH OF THE SAHARA\*

BY WILLIAM L. BROWN, JR.  
Department of Entomology, Cornell University

Recently Mr. G. E. J. Nixon, of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology in London, sent me a small series of a curious ant that he had recognized as an aberrant and possibly undescribed species of tribe Dacetini. Upon receiving the specimens, I found that the sample represented a new *Epitritus*, the first member of the genus from Ethiopian Africa, and the first to be found in the tropics. I am grateful to Mr. Nixon for making available this most interesting new species.

### *Epitritus laticeps* sp. nov.

Figures 1-4

Holotype worker: TL 2.2, HL 0.47, HW 0.58 (CI 123), ML 0.22 (MI 47), WL 0.49, scape L 0.29, funiculus L 0.43 mm, of which about half is taken up by the apical segment. Measurements and proportions are those standard in my other dacetine studies (see Brown, 1953, Amer. Midl. Nat. 50: cf. pp. 7-15).

Shape of head, body and mandibles as shown in Figs. 1-4. Especially characteristic of the known species of *Epitritus* and (judging from two occipital lobes (which make the head distinctly broader than long); the wide, basally lobiform antennal scapes; the large, conical labral lobes; the 4 long straplike clypeal hairs and the peculiar mandibles, lacking a long, spiniform dorsal "apical" tooth and with only a single preapical tooth. The apex of the mandible is of the "inverted" type characteristic of the known species of *Epitritus* and (judging from two paratype workers of which the mandibles were opened) has 7 or 8 denticles, of which one or two in the middle are round-edged, and the rest are acute. The basal lamella is small, with acutely rounded apex (Fig. 3), and the ventro-medial margin below it is obtusely denticulate or angulate (not shown in figures). Eyes minute, with only 4-6 facets. Antennal funiculus clearly 5-segmented.

Promesonotum seen from above broadly oval, almost circular, narrowest behind, where it is terminated by the fine but distinct metanotal groove, which crosses just behind the highest point of the swollen mesonotum. Propodeum much narrower than pronotum, with high,

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