

Richards Bay, Zululand. February (J. C. Faure). One ♀ obtained by sifting dead leaves and other vegetable debris.

Up to the discovery of *descarpentriesi* i.sp. in Madagascar, the distribution of the genus, comprising only a few species, was Neotropical, Indo-Malayan and Papuan. This race represents the only example of the genus so far recorded from the continent of Africa, and is also the only representative therein of the tribe *Ectatommini*.

In the type of the species the petiole is only one half wider than long, and the post-petiole one-fourth wider than long.

Tribe PONERINI Forel

✓ *Ponera aenigmatica* n.sp. (Figs. 5, 5a)

♀. 3.7 mm. long, excluding the mandibles. Brownish black, the clypeus and apical margins of the abdominal segments fusco-ferruginous, the apical segment brownish yellow, the antennae, mandibles, outer margin of the frontal carinae, ferruginous. On the dorsal surface of the whole body there is a fine pale yellowish, decumbent and plentiful pubescence; the clypeus and hind margins of the abdominal segments with a few long, exserted hairs. Head dull, the rest of the body nitidulous. Mandibles triangular, shining, sparsely and strongly punctured near the masticatory margin, which has nine alternating large and small teeth. Head dull, finely reticulate-punctate. Pronotum and mesonotum dull, reticulate-punctate, a little less finely so than the head. Epinotum and abdomen moderately shining, very finely punctured, the interspaces as large as the punctures, the petiole smooth, also the declivity of the epinotum. Head slightly narrowed anteriorly, about one-fourth longer than wide behind, the sides feebly convex, the posterior angles rounded. Clypeus carinate in the middle, the carina not reaching the apical margin, the latter convex and with a very short median lobe. Frontal carinae short, semicircularly laminate, covering the base of the scapes. Eyes flat and very small, the facets indistinct, separated from the base of the mandibles by a distance equal to the length of the first joint of the flagellum. The scapes fall short of the hind margin of the head by about as much as their own diameter. Flagellum without a distinct club, merely gradually widened towards the apex, the first joint two and a half times longer than the second, the latter about as long as wide, the third to tenth wider than long, the apical joint fully twice as long as wide. Pronotal dorsum feebly convex, widest in front, twice as wide there as long in the middle. Pro-mesonotal suture well defined, the mesoepinotal less distinctly. Mesonotum transversely oval, seven-tenths wider than long, feebly convex. Dorsum of the epinotum horizontal, slightly widening caudad, nearly twice as long as wide at the base, merging into the slightly longer and vertical declivity in a wide curve. Petiole higher than long below, the dorsum broadly triangular with the corners rounded, convex lengthwise, very nearly twice as wide as long. First abdominal segment about one-fourth wider than long, one-third wider behind than in front. Middle tibiae with two calcaria, the posterior pectinate, the hind