

## Discussion

### Taxonomic position

Workers have scapes similar to those of *M. aloba*. In *M. cagnianti* body size is smaller, the sculpture is longitudinal with the interspaces very shiny, the pilosity is finer and the meso-propodeal furrow less developed. The best way to discriminate the two species, besides cephalic indices, is by the near absence of tibial spurs and the shape of the petiole which is not truncated above in *M. cagnianti*. The petiole is also narrower in *M. cagnianti* [mean  $\pm$  sd PE/HW (petiole width/head width):  $0.24 \pm 0.008$ ; measured as in SEIFERT, 1988]. It differs from *M. scabrinodis* by its non angulate scape, the shape of the petiole and the cephalic indices and from *M. specioides* also by its scape and cephalic indices.

Females of *M. cagnianti* differ from *M. aloba* by the scape petiole shape [PE/HW (petiole width/head width):  $0.27 \pm 0.008$ ] and pilosity in similar ways as workers and from *M. scabrinodis* by the scape, petiole shape and cephalic indices.

Males of *M. cagnianti* differ from *M. aloba* by the shape of the petiole, which is like that of *M. scabrinodis* and the long appendage pilosity separates *M. cagnianti* from *M. specioides*. They are smaller, with a relatively shorter head and narrower alitrunk but otherwise very difficult to separate from the similar *M. scabrinodis*.

The group of *Myrmica* species with bent scape without lobar extensions or with slight angle should be considered with care as separate new morphospecies may perhaps be recognized. Identification of species belonging to this group, if made with scarce material and in absence of winged forms, is difficult. Workers are extremely alike in spite of being structurally rich, and proper naming is very much helped with biometrical analysis.

### Biological notes

*M. cagnianti* nests in humid spots, apparently in all mountain chains of Morocco and Algeria as could be expected for this genus in a dry region, except Anti Atlas. In May, nests have always been found in biotopes near permanent water streams.

Societies are polygynous (up to 34 queens in a nest from Oukaimeden).

The nest from Bou Iblane was heavily parasitized by *Myrmica kabylica* (Cagniant, 1970). In a non exhaustive search 38 males and 106 females were collected. This social parasite was previously known only from Tala Guilef, Algeria.

### **Resumen**

*Myrmica cagnianti*, una nueva hormiga del norte de África (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

Se propone a *Myrmica cagnianti*, una hormiga de Marruecos, como una nueva especie.

Se caracteriza por el escapo sin extensión lobulada, pilosidad fina, ausencia de espolones tibiales II y III y por la forma del nodo del peciolo (figs. 1-5, 6-12). Se describen las diferencias con *M. aloba* Forel, *M. specioides* Bondroit y *M. scabrinodis* Nylander. Los machos de esta nueva especie son muy similares a los de *M. scabrinodis*. Los índices cefálicos constituyen un buen método para discriminar entre *M. cagnianti* y especies relacionadas.

El parásito social *Myrmica kabylica* (Cagniant) ha sido encontrado en el nido de esta nueva especie, constituyendo la segunda cita para esta rara hormiga.

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