

Notes. *M. nitida* is probably related to the *M. cashmiriensis* complex, but its workers well differ from all other Eurasian *Myrmica* species by the combination of an almost entirely smooth alitrunk and very short, dentiform propodeal spines. The females differ from the *M. cashmiriensis* complex by having a much less strongly sculptured alitrunk and especially waist.

The males differ from all Himalayan species, which males have long antennal scape, by smooth and shiny alitrunk and waist. Little is known about its ecology other than one colony was found living in the same habitat in Kashmir as *M. rhytida*, at 3600m, under a stone, on small ridge on the west side of a lake, with scattered juniper and rhododendron shrubs and a ground cover of various herbs and flowers (P. Ward, pers. comm.).

***Myrmica wittmeri* Radchenko & Elmes, sp. n. (fig 3, 11–14)**

Material. Holotype worker, Indien, Him. [mahal] Prad. [esh], Mahri, 3000–3200 m, 15.05.1977, leg. Wittmer et Brancucci (NHMB). Paratypes: 3 workers (one without head), with the same label; 3 workers, Pakistan, Kalam, 2300 m, 12.07. [19]94, leg. S. Dakatra; 6 workers, India, Himahal Pradesh, Kullu valley, La Pass, 3400–3700 m, 02.10.1996, No. 420, 422, leg. A. Schulz & K. Vock (NHMB, RIGATO, SCHULZ, SIZK, ELMES).

Workers. Head long with feebly convex sides, straight occipital margin and rounded occipital corners. Anterior clypeal margin narrowly rounded and prominent (not pointed). Frontal carinae short, almost straight, curving slightly outwards to merge with rugae which surround antennal sockets. 3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> funicular joints about 1.5 times longer than wide. In profile, promesonotum appearing convex and promesonotal groove distinct and mesonotum curved down abruptly to propodeum to form distinct, wide and deep mesopropodeal furrow. Propodeal spines short but sharp, with relatively broad bases. Petiole with relatively short anterior peduncle; in profile, its anterior surface concave and node appearing subtriangular with narrowly rounded dorsum. Postpetiole appearing subcubical with gradually and feebly arched anterodorsal surface.

Head dorsum longitudinally rugose and surfaces between rugae smooth and shiny; clypeus longitudinally rugose (although in some specimens central part with reduced sculpture and appearing smooth); frontal area smooth and shiny; mandibles densely longitudinally striated. Dorsum of promesonotum with reticulate sculpture combined with irregular transversal rugosity; lateral parts of alitrunk and propodeal dorsum with reduced irregular longitudinal rugulosity or striation, with surfaces between rugae appearing smooth and shiny. Petiolar and postpetiolar nodes finely punctured but appearing more or less shiny; central area of postpetiolar dorsum smooth. Body with straight, erect to suberect hairs; those of lateral margins of head, and appendages very short and decumbent. Entire body brownish-red.

Notes. Females and males are unknown. The ecology is not known. *M. wittmeri* closely resembles *M. nitida* sp. n., but clearly differs from it by its distinctly coarser sculpture of the alitrunk, its darker colour and its narrowly rounded petiolar node.

***Myrmica wardi* Radchenko & Elmes, sp. n. (fig 4, 1–10)**

Material. Holotype worker, [India], Kashmir, Ladakh, Leh, 34°11' N, 77°35' E, 3450 m, No. 3094, 21.08.1978, leg. P. Ward (NHML). Paratypes: 6 workers with the same label; 6 workers, 1 female, [India], Kashmir, Pahalgam, 34°02' N, 75°19' E, 2190 m, No. 3003, 27.07.1978; about 100 workers, 2 males, [India], Kashmir, Lidderwat, 34°09' N, 75°15' E, 2700 m, No. 3015, 3018c, 3023, 3029, 30.07.1978; 1 worker, 1 female, [India], Kashmir, Kulan, 34°16' N, 75°09' E, 2100 m, No. 3050–10, 3050–12, 08.08.1978; 29 workers, 1 female, [India], Kashmir, Ladakh, Panikhar, Suru R., 34°07' N, 75°57' E, No. 3077, 3078, 17.08.1978; 3 workers, [India], Kashmir, Ladakh, Leh, 34°11' N, 77°35' E, 3450 m, No. 3090, 21.08.1978; 4 workers, [India], Kashmir, Sonamarg, 34°18' N, 75°18' E, 2700 m, No. 3102 (all leg. P. Ward); 8 workers, Pakistan, Chitral Valley, between Dir and Lawari Pass, 2400 m, 11.08.1994, leg. S. Dakatra; 3 workers, Indien, Himahal Pradesh, vic. Theong, 25 km E Shimla, 2400m, No. 394, 29.09.1996, leg. A. Schulz & K. Vock; 3 workers, 2 females, India, Himahal Pradesh, Kullu valley, 5–7 km SW Rothang La Pass, 2500–2900 m, No. 432, 01.10.1996, leg. A. Schulz & K. Vock (NHML, NHMB, RIGATO, SCHULZ, WARD,