

and pointed. Frontal carinae short, almost straight and curve outwards to merge into rugae which surround antennal sockets; although antennal scape appearing slender and long, it distinctly shorter than head; 3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> funicular joints about 1.5 times longer than broad. In profile, pronotum feebly convex, mesonotal dorsum appearing concave and mesonotum curves down abruptly to propodeum to form distinct, wide and deep mesopropodeal furrow. Propodeal spines long, thin, straight, relatively narrow at their bases, and projected backwards and upwards at about 45°. Petiole with long anterior peduncle and in appearing relatively high, its anterior surface concave and meets more or less straight posterior surface to form truncated node, postero-dorsal surface of node appearing as tight arch (or on some specimens can appearing somewhat ungnate). Postpetiole subcubical, its anterior and dorsal surfaces meet to form regular arch, apex of which slightly anterior to mid point.

Head dorsum (including clypeus) coarsely, longitudinally rugose, central frons with < 13 rugae; surfaces between rugae, and frontal area appearing smooth and shiny. Promesonotal dorsum coarsely, irregularly rugoso-reticulate, propodeal dorsum longitudinally rugose and sides of alitrunk coarsely, longitudinally rugose. Petiole and postpetiole with sinuous, longitudinal rugae; their surfaces appearing smooth and shiny. Body with long, thin, erect to suberect hairs; those of lateral margins of head and appendages decumbent. Body generally dark reddish, legs and antennae dark reddish-brown.

Females. Generally like workers in shape of head, sculpture, coloration and pilosity except: antennal scape relatively shorter, propodeal spine relatively much shorter and broader at their bases, they project backwards rather than upwards. Although general shape of petiole (seen in profile) similar to that of workers, posterior surface distinctly steeper so that general shape of node appearing more domed and less subtriangular. Scutum, scutellum, sides of alitrunk, petiole and postpetiole coarsely longitudinally rugose with surface between rugae appearing smooth and shiny. General colour dark reddish-brown.

Males. Head elongate, somewhat narrowed anteriorly, with slightly convex sides and occipital margins, and rounded occipital corners. Anterior clypeal margin slightly prominent and narrowly rounded medially. Antennal scapes long and very feebly curved at their bases. Masticatory margin of mandibles distinct, with 5 small acute teeth and longer apical one. Alitrunk long and wide; in profile scutum appearing feebly convex and propodeum with short, blunt denticles; metapleural lobes rounded. Petiole with short, thick but distinct anterior peduncle; its anterior surface seen in profile, slightly concave and posterior one convex, dorsum of node relatively long and feebly convex, so that petiole length distinctly exceeding its height. Postpetiole subglobular.

Central part of head dorsum with convergent rugosity, and sides with sinuous, longitudinal rugae; surfaces between rugae finely punctured and appearing submatte. Clypeus with reduced longitudinal striation and appearing shiny; frontal area finely superficially punctured but appearing more or less smooth. Scutellum and central part of distal half of scutum longitudinally rugose; pro- and mesopleura finely longitudinally striated; sides of propodeum longitudinally rugose. Sides of petiolar node finely longitudinally striate, otherwise surfaces of both petiole and postpetiole appearing shiny (no punctures). Occipital and lateral margins of head with relatively long, abundant, suberect hairs; alitrunk, petiole, postpetiole and gaster with sparser, shorter, straight, suberect hairs; legs and scapes with short, decumbent hairs. General colour reddish-brown and head dark brown.

Notes. The workers and females of *M. rhytida* differ from *M. wardi*, *M. ordinaria* and *M. cachmiriensis* by the distinctly more coarse rugosity of head dorsum, alitrunk, petiole and postpetiole. The males differ from *M. wardi* and *M. cachmiriensis* by their long antennal scape (males of *M. ordinaria* are unknown). A little is known about its ecology. It is fairly common at altitudes from 3130 and 4200 m. In Kashmir (P. Ward,