Table 1. Indices (after Elmes, Radchenko, 1998) of the *M. ritae* queen compared with those of the other known queens from the *ritae* complex

Таблица 1. Индексы (по Elmes, Radchenko, 1998) самки *M. ritae* в сравнении с другими известными самками видов из комплекса *ritae*

Species	CI	FI	FLI	SI1	SI2	PI1	PI2	PPI1	PPI2	PPI3	ESLI	ESDI	AI	HTI	SCI
M. gigantea	1.12	0.41	1.13	0.90	1.01	1.82	0.62	1.14	1.00	1.25	0.31	1.37	5.93	1.02	1.61
M. serica	1.17	0.39	1.06	1.01	1.18	1.84	0.70	0.93	1.01	1.62	0.59	0.97	6.09	1.09	1.50
M. indica	1.15	0.44	1.04	1.10	1.27	1.56	0.66	0.86	1.03	1.59	0.45	1.13	6.46	0.99	1.47
M. ritae	1.05	0.36	1.14	1.23	1.29	1.89	0.73	0.97	1.04	1.61	0.64	0.88	6.47	1.20	1.45

striato—rugulose; frontal area smooth and shiny. Scutum with very coarse more or less straight, longitudinal rugae, those of scutellum slightly sinuous, those of pronotum sinuous. Rugae on sides of mesonotum and propodeum straight and those of propodeal dorsum short and sinuous. Petiole and postpetiole with coarse sinuouse rugae. Gaster smooth and shiny. Occipital margin of head, ocipital corners and cheeks with long outstanding hairs. Those of the alitrunk and waist similar but sparser. Tibiae and scapes with numerous subdecumbent hairs. Gaster with very sparse, short, decumbent pilosity. Head and appendages lighter in colour than body, but not so distinctly bicoloured as in workers. Head and antennae yellowish-red; alitrunk and waist dark reddish brown (alitrunk with yellowish spots on mesopleura); gaster reddish brown; legs ochreous.

Measurements (in mm): HW=1.23, HL=1.26, FW=0.43, FLW=0.49, SL=1.55, HTL=1.44, AL=2.46, SCW=1.16, SCL=1.68, AH=1.44, PL=0.87, PPL=0.62, PW=0.38, PPW=0.61, PH=0.46, PPH=0.64, ESL=0.77, ESD=0.68. Indices are in table 1.

Notes. The female of *M. ritae* differs from all known females from the *ritae* complex (*M. serica* Wheeler, *M. indica* Weber and *M. gigantea* (Collingwood) by having straight, not sinuous longitudinal rugae on its head dorsum. When comparingthe above morphometrics with those ofthe other species, provided by Radchenko, Elmes (1998, table 1 *ibid*) the *M. ritae* queen appears about of the same size as *M. indica* (HW=1.19 mm), slightly smaller than *M. serica* (HW=1.32 mm), but distinctly smaller than *M. gigantea* (HW=1.94 mm). Comparison of indices given in table 1, shows that the head of *M. ritae* is distinctly more square than in the other three species (CI=1.05 v =1.15) and this species has the scapemuch longer in relation to the length of its head. Also, its propodeal spines are relatively much longer than those of the other species.

Additional Notes on the *ritae* group

A. Schultz found *M. ritae* living in a piece wood (15 cm diameter) on the ground in dense old oak forest. The forest was at an altitude of 1950 m, it was cool (annual mean temperature <15°C) and quite humid with very few epiphites, but with abundant moss. This fits the idea that *ritae* group are mainly forest ants which probably forage in low shrubs, perhaps even in the foliage of trees. Other genera collected in this area included *Tetramorium* Mayr, *Crematogaster* Lund and *Pachycondyla* F. Smith.

We found a specimen of *M. ritae* in the Natural History Museum (London) collection among the species collected at virtually same place as Schulz material. It is a worker, labelled: "N. Thailand, 16.vi.1981, W. L. Brown & I. Burikar, Doi Indhanont, 1780 m, mountain humid forest, rotten wood".