

THE QUEEN OF *MONOMORIUM DENTATUM* SHARAF, 2007 (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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Abstract: The queen of the Egyptian endemic species *Monomorium dentatum* Sharaf, 2007 is described and illustrated. A new locality for the species is also recorded.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Monomorium dentatum*, Egypt.

La reina de la hormiga *Monomorium dentatum* Sharaf, 2007 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

Resumen: Se describe e ilustra la reina de *Monomorium dentatum* Sharaf, 2007, especie endémica de Egipto. Se añade una nueva localidad a su distribución conocida.

Palabras clave: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Monomorium dentatum*, Egipto.

Introduction

The worker caste of the endemic *Monomorium dentatum* Sharaf, 2007, was described from specimens collected in several localities in Egypt. In August 2008, the senior author (M. Sharaf) collected the queen, or gyne, with additional worker specimens. Here, the queen of *Monomorium dentatum* Sharaf, 2007 is described and illustrated for the first time.

Material and methods

Measurements and indices were taken according to Bolton (1987).

Monomorium dentatum Sharaf, 2007

Fig. 1-3.

PARATYPE QUEEN: 1 dealated queen, EGYPT: Damietta, 13.viii.2008, 31.24°N 31.44°E; (*Mostafa R. Sharaf*), Egyptian Entomological Society Collection (EESC), Cairo, Egypt.

MEASUREMENTS: TL 2.60; HL 0.50, HW 0.45, SL 0.35, EL 0.15, PL 0.23, PW 0.15, PPL 0.15, PPW 0.22. **Indices:** CI 90; SI 78.

DESCRIPTION: Body unicolorous yellow or yellowish brown, legs and antennae yellow, eyes and ocelli brown. Head clearly longer than broad, broader posteriorly than anteriorly. With head in full-face view the sides clearly convex and the occipital margin shallowly concave. Masticatory margins of mandibles with 4 teeth, the apical one being the longer and brown, the second and the third are subequal and brown, the basal one yellow and the shorter; eyes large, oval, with 15 ommatidia in the longest row. Antennae 12-segmented, antennal scapes, when laid straight back from their insertions, failing to reach the occipital margin. Mesosoma narrow, considerably longer than broad; mesonotum higher than pronotum, mesonotum dorsum and sides smooth and shining with abundant sparse hair pits;

propodeal spines small but acute. Petiole with a long peduncle and convex and narrow dorsum and with several pairs of long hairs. Postpetiole dorsum clearly convex, broad and with several pairs of long hairs. The ventral dent short and acute. First gastral tergite paler than the rest. Entire body abundantly hairy; all dorsal surfaces of head and body with dense standing long pilosity and sides of head in full-face view with freely projecting long hairs both in front of and behind the eyes. Pilosity of scapes and tibiae elevated, not appressed. Head dorsum punctuate to reticulate punctuate. Area between frontal carinae to the occipital margin faintly longitudinally striate.

REMARKS. Sharaf (2007) expected *M. dentatum* would be widely distributed inside Egypt, especially in the Nile river valley, as all the localities, Damietta, Abu-Swelem (El-Minyia) and Abuzabal (Qalyubiya), were close to the river. Recently the senior author collected workers from Um Khnan, a small village near Giza, March 4, 2009, 30.01°N 31.13°E, so confirming the wide distribution along the Nile valley.

Acknowledgements

The first author would like to thank his wife Mrs. Amal M. El-Saadany for her continuous encouragement and assistance.

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Fig. 1-3. *Monomorium dentatum* Sharaf, 2007: 1. Profile of the queen. 2. Dorsal view of the queen. 3. Full-face view of the queen.