

**MALE OF *PAEDALGUS TERMITOLESTES* W. M. WHEELER
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)**

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Examination of samples of rotten wood at Gambari Experimental Station (Ibadan, Nigeria) during early June 1969 disclosed a nest of *P. termitolestes* Wheeler deep inside a log and situated above a colony of *Nasutitermes* sp.

In a separate chamber, close to the surface of the log and apparently not in contact with any termite galleries were eight males, tended by workers.

Diagnosis of male (*previously undescribed*)

T.L. 4.7 mm. Head broader than long; eyes and ocelli large, prominent. Antennae long, thirteen segmented. Second flagellar segment almost three times as long as first; scape shorter than all flagellar segments except the first.

Clypeus with median portion inflated, semi-globular; weakly projecting between frontal carinae, its anterior border emarginate medially.

Dental formula 1 + 3; palp formula 3;2.

Alitrunk robust, mesoscutum somewhat overhanging pronotum in front. Parapsidal furrows distinct. Propodeum evenly convex, steep, its spiracle large, circular. Legs long and slender, hind legs extending well beyond tip of gaster. Middle and hind tibiae devoid of spurs; the femora of these legs with a fringe of hairs ventrally. Wings dusky, with venation similar to *Oligomyrmex* Mayr., with Rs slightly curved anteriorly at apex, before the junction with R. A vein-stub between Rsf2 and Rsf3 may be present (remnant of Ir?). In the eight specimens available, this stub occurs on both wings in one; on one wing only in two of the males, and in the rest it is absent. Petiole short pedunculate, with a low, rounded node. In dorsal view longer than broad. Postpetiole much wider than long in dorsal view, considerably more broad and deep than the petiole, broadly attached to gaster. Subpetiolar and subpostpetiolar processes absent. Spiracles of these segments small but distinct.

Genitalia partly retracted but parameres large and protruding. Volsella with cuspis very broad, the outer margin of the digitus bent almost at a right angle. Aedeagus not dentate ventrally, dorsal margins thickened.

Body everywhere with a fine pubescence, short setae sparse.

Head finely punctate; alitrunk everywhere finely and densely punctate, with a few weak longitudinal striae which are most

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prominent on the propodeum. Pedicellar segments similar to propodeum; gaster shiny, not sculptured.

Discussion

The overall facies of the male of *Paedalgus* Forel shows close affinity to the males of the genera *Oligomyrmex* Mayr. and *Carebara* Westwood, all of which have a short scape, very small first flagellar segment, long antennae, a medially swollen clypeus which is not or only slightly inserted between the frontal carinae and a palp formula of 3:2.

The following key will separate the genera:

1. On forewing, radial sector curved anteriorly at its apex, to join the radius 2
 - On forewing, radial sector curved posteriorly at its apex, to join the radius

Carebara Westwood.
2. Parameres small, tapering; aedeagus serrate ventrally

; *Oligomyrmex* Mayr.

 - Parameres large, subtriangular; aedeagus not serrate ventrally

; *Paedalgus* Forel.

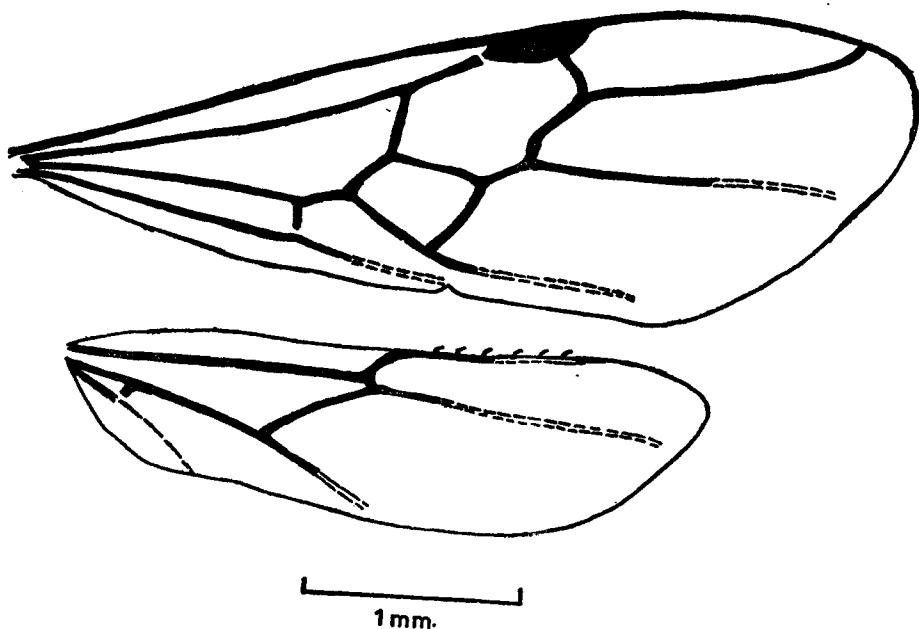


Fig. 1 Wings. of *P. termitolestes*.....male

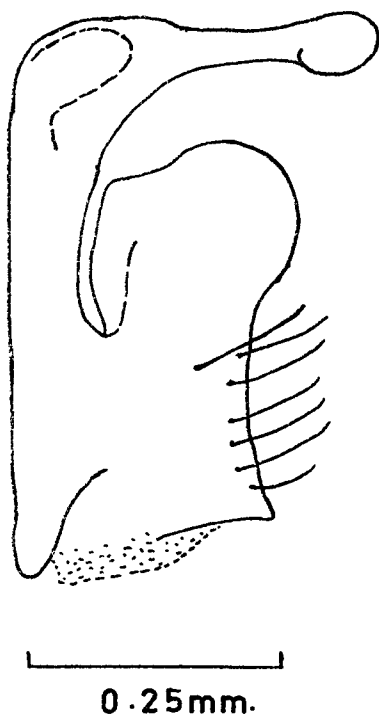


Fig. 2. Volsella of *P. termitolestes*.....male

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