

STRUMIGENYS BULERU species nov.

Insecta: Hymenoptera: Formicidae:
Myrmicinae: Dacetini

William L. Brown, Jr.
Department of Entomology
Cornell University,
Ithaca NY 14853, USA

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DIAGNOSIS, WORKER: A member of the group of *S. godeffroyi*, Australian section, close to *S. cochlearis*, and like it with 3 intercalary denticles in the apical fork of mandible, but larger and more robust, with mandibles shorter and thicker relative to the head.

WORKER, HOLOTYPE: TL 3.7. HL 0.84, HW 0.70 (CI 83), ML 0.36 (MI 43), scape L 0.51, eye L 0.09, petiole L 0.33, WL 0.93 mm.

PARATYPES: TL 3.5-3.6, HL 0.82-0.86, HW 0.69-0.73 (CI 83-84), ML 0.36-0.37 (MI 43-45), WL 0.90-0.97, petiole L 0.33-0.37 mm.

Head and mandibles shown in figure. Compared with *S. cochlearis*: mandible short and straight, except for slightly incurved base, with a straight, narrow, mesal, lamelliform margin; preapical tooth stout; dorsal tooth of apical fork stout, longer than its ventral mate; crowded contiguously between them are 3 intercalary denticles, of which the dorsal-most is smallest. This pattern is much like that of *S. cochlearis*, but the teeth are a little more slender.

Alitrunk stout, compact; dorsal outline as viewed from the side nearly straight from promesonotal summit to propodeum, only very feebly concave in the posterior mesonotal region; propodeal dorsum feebly convex; metanotal groove obsolete. Propodeal teeth about 2/3 as long as the distance between the centers of their bases, short but acute at apex, completely involved in distinct, moderately broad lamellae which are feebly concave above and broadly convex below, reticulate.

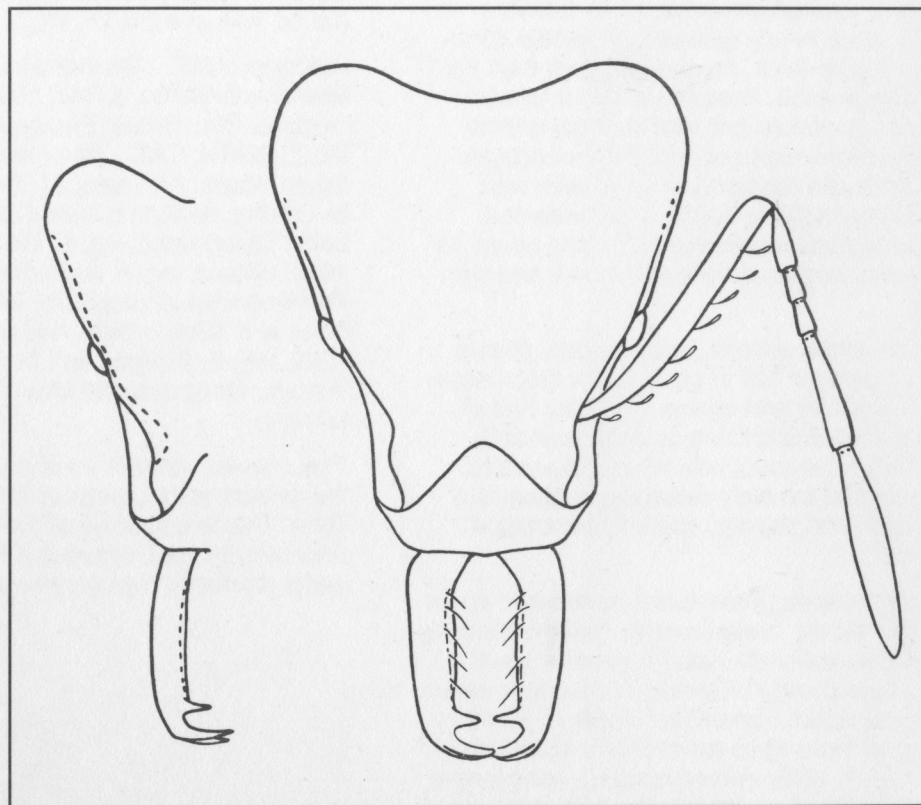


Fig. 1, left, *Strumigenys cochlearis*, worker from South Australia, half-outline of head and mandibles to compare with *Strumigenys buleru* worker from Biloela, Queensland, right, of which pilosity is omitted, except for that fringing anterior scape borders and mesal mandibular margins. Drawings by Susan Poulakis.

Petiole with a slender peduncle, slightly shorter than its distinct, anteriorly weakly bicarinate node. Node seen from above broad-oval, nearly as broad as long and truncate caudad; posterior border with a curved, raised, spongiform collar. Seen from the side, node nearly globose, its ventral spongiform strip thick, areolate, deeper than the peduncle itself. Postpetiole about $\frac{1}{2}$ x as broad as petiole and with strongly convex disc; voluminous spongiform appendages ventrad and posterolaterad. Gaster with basal spongiform border and numerous crowded basal costulae extending about $\frac{1}{3}$ of basal tergite, otherwise smooth and shining.

Head, entire alitrunk, appendages, petiole and posterior half of postpetiolar disc densely punctulate and opaque. Anterior half of postpetiolar disc finely and somewhat indefinitely longitudinally striate. Mandibles feebly and minutely reticulate at base, but smooth and shining, sparsely punctulate apicad.

Head, scapes, alitrunk and nodes with evenly distributed, conspicuous pilosity consisting of linear-spatulate hairs, curved to a sub-reclinate position. Gastric hairs longer, fewer, but still rather numerous (40-50, in 5 or 6 ragged transverse rows), linear-spatulate or remiform, stiffly curved caudad, none longer than width of posterior coxa. No long, paired, flagelliform or other specialized hairs on head, humeri, or elsewhere. Legs with appressed and subappressed, short, spatulate hairs. Funiculi and mandibles with fine reclinate hairs. Pilosity in general much like that of *S. cochlearis*, and varying similarly among series.

Color medium ferruginous; sample from Heathcote a little darker, and hairs of head pilosity show up better in contrast.

PARATYPE QUEEN, DEALATE: TL 4.1, HL 0.93, HW 0.79 (CI 85). ML (partly open) 0.38 (MI ca. 41), eye L 0.15, WL 1.11 mm.

Holotype (ANIC - Canberra): Deep Water, New South Wales, 5 Dec. 1949, leg. T. Greaves, No. 10299. Paratypes (ANIC, MCZ, BMNH, CAS - San Francisco): New South Wales: Armidale, 31 Aug. 1956, leg. B. B. Lowery, dealate queen. Queensland: Mt. Lofty, Toowoomba, leg. L. Weatherill, 15 Apr. 1972. Biloela, leg. F. A. Cudmore, in nest of *Pachycondyla oculata* (det. W. L. B.). Ten miles w of Crow's Nest, 440 m, 23 Nov. 1962, leg. E. S. Ross and D. Q. Cavagnaro. Victoria: Heathcote, 24 May 1961, leg. B. B. Lowery.

The species name is an aboriginal word for the ancient spirit-creatures of the Dream Time. This is a species of the dry to medium sclerophyll forest, where it is found mainly under stones or logs on the ground surface.