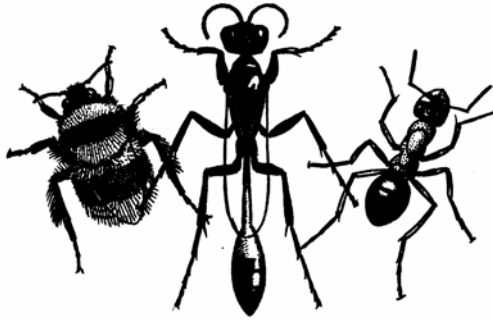


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President Dr Michael Archer

KEY TO BRITISH *MYRMICA* SPECIES (WORKERS)

Barry Bolton, April 2005

- 1 In profile the posterolateral clypeus, immediately in front of the torulus, without an arched impression or groove that follows the curve of the antennal socket; frontal lobe curves around anterior margin of torulus. In full-face view the posteriormost point of lateral margin of frontal lobe is continued as a costa that curves evenly outward and forward around the antennal fossa. With head tilted slightly back from full-face view the median portion of the anterior clypeal margin is distinctly and quite strongly convex. Basal portion of scape shaft (in anterior or posterior view when scape is at a right-angle to the long axis of the head) is evenly, broadly and shallowly curved toward the articulatory neck2
- In profile the posterolateral clypeus, immediately in front of the torulus, with an arched impression or groove that follows the curve of the antennal socket; frontal lobe may curve around anterior margin of torulus or may terminate dorsally. In full-face view the posteriormost point of lateral margin of frontal lobe is not continued as a costa that curves around the antennal fossa (curved costae may arise more anteriorly but the frontal lobe usually continues posteriorly as a costa). With head tilted slightly back from full-face view the median portion of the anterior clypeal margin is extremely shallowly and broadly convex to distinctly concave. Basal portion of scape shaft (in anterior or posterior view when scape is at a right-angle to the long axis of the head) is narrowly curved to distinctly angled downward before the articulatory neck3
- 2 Petiole in profile with a sharply defined posterodorsal angle between the flat dorsal surface and the short, more or less vertical, posterior face. Sides and dorsum of petiole node with rugose sculpture. Tergite of postpetiole with strong longitudinal rugae. Propodeal declivity between the spines with transverse rugulose or costulate sculpture. Propodeal spines in dorsal view about as long as the distance between their tips*ruginodis*
- Petiole in profile rounded posterodorsally, the sloping dorsal surface curving evenly into the posterior face, the two not separated by a sharply defined angle. Sides and dorsum of petiole node without rugose sculpture. Tergite of postpetiole at most with weak superficial sculpture, without strong longitudinal rugae. Propodeal declivity between the spines without transverse rugulose or costulate sculpture. Propodeal spines in dorsal view somewhat variable in length but usually distinctly shorter than the distance between their tips*rubra*
- 3 Dorsum of scape at its prebasal angle surmounted by a vertical transverse cuticular lamella. With head in full-face view and scape at a right-angle to the long axis of the head the posterior lobe of the torulus is visible, projecting beyond the line of the margin of the frontal lobe.....4
- Dorsum of scape at its prebasal angle not surmounted by a vertical transverse cuticular lamella . With head in full-face view and scape at a right-angle to the long axis of the head the torulus is not visible, being completely concealed by the frontal lobe5
- 4 With head in full-face view the maximum width across the frontal lobes is about $0.35 \times \text{HW}$. Peduncle of petiole in profile short and inconspicuous; anterior face of petiole node steep and more or less straight, meeting the dorsal surface in a right-angle.....*lobicornis*
- With head in full-face view the maximum width across the frontal lobes is about $0.25 \times \text{HW}$. Peduncle of petiole in profile conspicuous; anterior face of petiole node distinctly concave, meeting the dorsal surface in a blunt and rounded angle*schencki*

- 5 With head in profile the anterior end of the frontal lobe approximately flat, confluent with the torulus and following the same curve as the torulus edge. With head tilted back slightly from full-face view the median portion of the anterior clypeal margin is very shallowly evenly convex to flat, not distinctly concave. Prebasal curve of scape abrupt but simple, without dorsally located outgrowths, flanges or lamellae at the bend and without longitudinal cuticular carinae that extend distally from the bend out along the margins of the scape shaft. Sides of alitrunk, petiole and postpetiole longitudinally sulcate; dorsum of propodeum and postpetiole longitudinally sulcate.....**sulcinodis**
- With head in profile the anterior end of the frontal lobe convex, terminating in front of the torulus, not confluent with the torulus and not following the curve of the torulus edge. With head tilted back slightly from full-face view the median portion of the anterior clypeal margin is concave. Prebasal curve of scape abrupt and angular; either with dorsally located outgrowths, flanges or lamellae at the bend, or with longitudinal cuticular carinae that extend distally from the bend out along the margins of the scape shaft. Sides of alitrunk petiole and postpetiole longitudinally rugose; dorsum of propodeum and postpetiole longitudinally rugose.....6
- 6 Dorsal surfaces of pronotum and mesonotum finely sculptured; either narrowly longitudinally costulate or delicately longitudinally rugulose, with few or no anastomoses or reticulation between the longitudinal components.....**vandeli**
- Dorsal surfaces of pronotum and mesonotum coarsely sculptured; predominantly irregularly longitudinally rugose, with numerous strong anastomoses or reticulation between the longitudinal components.....7
- 7 Postpetiole in dorsal view relatively broad, its maximum width $0.56 \times HW$ or more. With head in full-face view the longest hairs that project from the side behind the eye are longer than the eye length. Known workers with three minute ocelli present. [Extremely rare, has only been found in nests of its host-species, *M. sabuleti*.] **hirsuta**
- Postpetiole in dorsal view relatively narrow, its maximum width less than $0.50 \times HW$. With head in full-face view the longest hairs that project from the side behind the eye are much shorter than the eye length. Ocelli absent.....8
- 8 With petiole node in profile the dorsal and posterior faces round broadly together, the two faces not separated by a distinct posterodorsal angle; node without a differentiated near-vertical free posterior face.....**specioides**
- With petiole node in profile the dorsal and posterior faces not rounding broadly together, instead separated by a distinct posterodorsal angle; node with a differentiated near-vertical free posterior face.....9
- 9 Prebasal angle of scape abrupt but simple; margins of scape proximal and distal of the bend may be sharp but there is no broadly crest-like or lobe-like cuticular outgrowth that extends distally from the bend along the trailing edge of the scape**scabrinodis**
- Prebasal angle of scape abrupt and complex; scape on dorsum of bend equipped with a broadly crest-like to lobe-like cuticular outgrowth (of variable size) that extends distally from the bend on the trailing edge of the scape**sabuleti**

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Cover illustration. The RDB1 wasp *Cerceris quadricincta* foraging for weevils on brownfield 'waste ground' in Colchester © Peter Harvey