

*Camponotus* (*Tanæmyrmex*) *britteni*, *sp. n.* (*Hymenoptera*, *Formicidæ*), a *Formicine Ant new to Science*. By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S., etc.

HAVING received a *Camponotus* (worker major) from Mr. H. Britten, of the Manchester Museum, which I was unable to determine, I sent it to Professor Menozzi, of Chiavari, who returned it to me as representing a new species, which I have described in the following paper.

The genus *Camponotus* is a very large one, over 1000 forms having been described. The species occur all over the world, with the exception of Great Britain and New Zealand. Their colonies are often very populous, and their nesting-habits are very variable. They nest in the ground and under stones, in dead and decayed wood, under bark, and in galls and hollow twigs, etc. Some build nests of carton, and a few utilize their larvæ to spin silk to fasten together vegetable refuse, etc., as is the case in the genera *Ecophylla* and *Polyrhachis*. Their feeding-habits are also variable, as they prey on other insects, but also suck the excreta of aphids, the nectar of plants, etc. One of the largest ants in the world, *Camponotus* (*Dinomyrmex*) *gigas*, Latr., belongs to this genus.

As this immense genus became too unwieldy to deal with, various attempts have been made to try to simplify matters. In 1896 Emery divided the large number of species into some 26 groups. Later, Forel, in 1912, divided the genus into 20 subgenera. Unfortunately, however, he failed to designate types for these, and consequently, in 1913, Wheeler proceeded to supply this want. In 1914 Forel published a list of all the species known at that date, adding several new subgenera. He cited a type for each of the subgenera, but without consulting Wheeler's previous designations! Emery, in 1920, published a revised classification of the genus, but also overlooked Wheeler's designation of types. Wheeler, in 1921, was therefore obliged to propose a number of new subgeneric names. In 1921 Santschi slightly revised the genus, and created a few more subgenera. In the 'Genera Insectorum' (1925) Emery lists and defines some 38 subgenera. Finally, in 1926, Santschi somewhat modifies Emery's conclusions, and adds a few more subgenera.

*Camponotus* (*Tanæmyrmex*) *britteni*, *sp. n.*

*Worker major*.—Head and prothorax light chestnut-brown, mandibles shining black, mesothorax and epinotum reddish brown, scale, first two segments of gaster, and articulations at base of legs golden yellow, base of second segment and following segments blackish, antennæ and legs dark brown, tips of antennæ, spurs, and tarsi pale red. Whole body furnished with scattered long golden hairs which are set in raised pores and are thickest on prothorax and gaster, decumbent fine golden-grey pubescence,

most conspicuous on the sides of the thorax, and little, scattered, short, decumbent golden hairs, most noticeable on the cheeks and gaster.

*Head* triangular, broadest behind eyes but before occiput, somewhat excised posteriorly, very finely and transversely reticulate; *mandibles* armed with six teeth, the three apical ones longer than the rest, fifth longer than fourth, and sixth still longer than fifth, very finely reticulate, with larger and smaller scattered punctures; *clypeus* broadest at apex, narrowed to base, anterior border produced and emarginate in middle, distinctly carinate, with sharp pointed anterior angles, and a shallow fovea on each side between anterior angles and produced border; *frontal area* distinct, *frontal carinæ* long, reaching to beyond middle of eyes, converging in front and behind with raised edges, *frontal furrow* distinct, but not extending back as far as base of frontal carinæ; *eyes* large, oval; *ocelli* wanting; *antennæ* moderate; *scapes* extending beyond occipital border by barely twice their thickness. *Thorax* longer than broad, considerably narrower than base of head, and slightly more finely transversely reticulate; *pronotum* about as long as broad, narrowed in front, considerably rounded at sides, broadest behind middle, narrowly margined; *mesonotum* about as long as broad; *metanotum* very narrow, with rather feeble sutures; *epinotum* longer than broad, roundly arched, the dorsum slightly more so than the declivity; *scale* convex in front, concave behind, longer than broad, narrowed to apex laterally and transversely, and bluntly pointed at apex. *Gaster* longer than broad, finely transversely reticulate, more conspicuously so on basal margins, when visible, of second and third segments; the pores which bear the golden hairs appear to be more conspicuous on the gaster, and to have their anterior margins more raised. *Legs* moderate, *femora* and *tibiæ* compressed, the latter without spines beneath. *Long.* 7·5–9·5 mm.

*Worker minor*.—Colour, sculpture, and pilosity as in the major. *Head* longer than broad, subparallel, slightly broadest just before eyes, rounded to base, narrowed at occipital border; *clypeus* slightly more distinctly carinate and less abruptly produced in middle; *scapes* extending beyond the occipital border by half their length. *Thorax* much as in the major, but *metanotum* not visible; *scale* a little thicker in proportion; rest as in the major. *Long.* 5·5–6·5 mm.

Described from nine major and two minor workers sent to me by Mr. H. Britten, after whom the species is named. Captured by C. Hay Murray at Liverpool in April and May, 1930, on one of Messrs. Bibby Brothers' steamers in the wood-casing of the refrigerator chamber, to which they were causing considerable damage. Worker major and minor types in the British Museum Collection.

This species comes nearest to *Camponotus (Tanæmyrmex) nicobarensis*, Mayr (1865), and its varieties, which occur at the Nicobars, Cochin China, Burma, and Assam, but differs by being

somewhat larger, with brighter colours, duller integument, by reason of the different puncturation, and the presence of the fine golden-grey pubescence. The flagellum in *nicobarensis* is yellow, and in the ♂ minor the head is somewhat longer in proportion and the general colour is yellow.

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