

5834

ho 272

Donisthorpe, H., 1946h

From
**THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON**

Series B. TAXONOMY

Vol. 15, Parts 11-12, December 23rd, 1946

The Royal Entomological Society of London,
41, Queen's Gate, S.W.7

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF FORMICIDAE (HYM.)
FROM MAURITIUS

By Horace DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S.

Dodous gen. n.

Subfamily MYRMICINAE: tribe Solenopsidini.

♀. Mandibles armed with three teeth at apex; clypeus dentate; maxillary palpi 1-jointed; labial palpi 1-jointed; antennae 11-jointed, club 3-jointed; pronotum, mesonotum and epinotum each armed with a pair of spines; mesonotum separated from pronotum and epinotum; petiole long, pedunculate, furnished with a node; post petiole very slightly broader than petiole.

♂. Mandibles undeveloped; antennae 12-jointed; mayrian furrows indistinct, epinotum unarmed. Fore-wing: one cubital, open radial cell present; lower margin lobate.

Genotype: *Dodous trispinosus* sp. n.

Dodous trispinosus sp. n.

♀. Light reddish or yellowish-brown, legs a little lighter, funiculi and gaster slightly darker; whole body furnished with short fine scattered outstanding yellow hairs.

Head round, slightly longer than broad, cheeks and posterior angles rounded, posterior border somewhat excised. Sculpture of head consisting of ridges which are straight down the centre, spreading out in semicircles on each side and round the antennal foveae, gradually becoming straighter towards the temples and base.

Mandibles long, triangular, powerful, smooth and shining, masticatory border armed with 3 teeth at apex, the two apical ones long and pointed, the one preceding them short but sharp, a very short blunt tooth is present at basal angles; *clypeus* with anterior border projecting in centre, armed with 5 short teeth, the one in centre being most prominent, two small sharp teeth are present situated one on each side outside the projecting central portion, the basal portion is prolonged between the insertion of the antennae and carinae, extending from thence to the apex of the anterior teeth, the outer carina is continued to form the semicircular *frontal carinae*; *frontal area* wanting; *antennal foveae* large, deep, surrounded by circular carinae; *eyes* round, prominent, situated on the upper part of the sides of the head a little behind the centre; *palpi* short, *maxillary palpi* 1-jointed; *labial palpi* 2-jointed; *antennae* long, 11-jointed, *scape* reaching base of pronotum, *funiculus* with all joints longer than broad, 1st and 2nd joints of about equal length, 3rd to 5th shorter, subequal, 6th and 7th a little longer, club 3-jointed, well marked, last joint equal in length to the two preceding taken together. *Thorax* longer than broad, slightly contracted in middle, sculpture consisting of ridges which are coarser than those of the head, circular on the pronotum, enclosing the mesonotum, and along the sides and dorsal surface of the epinotum; *pronotum* with anterior angles rounded, armed on each side with a sharp curved spine; *mesonotum* circular, somewhat prominent, divided from the pronotum and epinotum by the interstice between two of the ridges, rugose in centre and armed on each side before base with a slightly curved spine, which is shorter and blunter than those of the pronotum; a rather deep furrow is present between the mesonotum and epinotum; *epinotum* armed with a pair of long sharp spines, joined together at base, projecting upwards, divergent and slightly curved downwards at apex, declivity behind the base of the spines

PROC. R. ENT. SOC. LOND. (B) 15. PTS. 11-12. (DEC. 1946.)

transversely striate, and armed with two short sharp teeth at base. Petiole, post petiole and gaster smooth and shining; *petiole* long and narrow, furnished at apex with a node which is rounded above, and slightly broader than peduncle; *post petiole* rounded at sides and above, slightly broader than petiole, with a very short tooth or projection beneath pointing forwards; *gaster* round oval, first segment taking up the greater part of the gaster above. *Legs* long, *femora* and *tibiae* spindle-shaped. Length 4.5-5 mm.

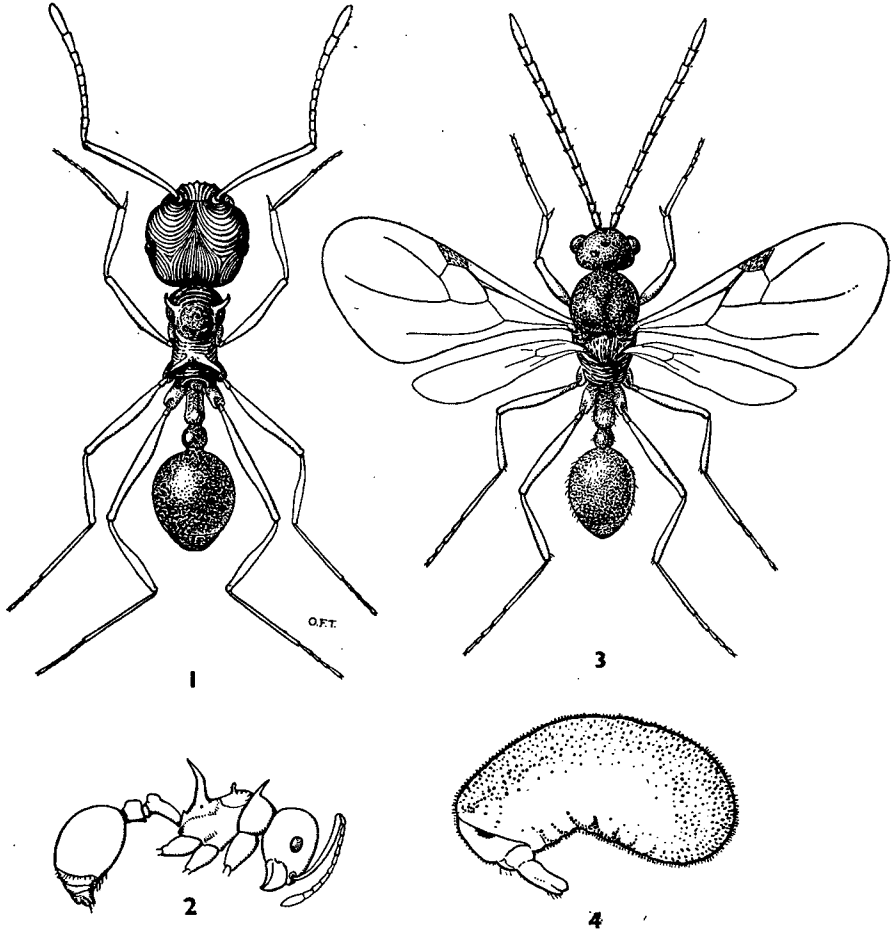


FIG. 1.—*Dodous trispinosus* sp. n. ♀.

FIG. 3.—Male.

FIG. 2.—*Dodous trispinosus* sp. n. ♀ in profile.

FIG. 4.—Larva.

♂. Shining dark reddish-brown, legs and antennae somewhat lighter, clothed with more abundant outstanding hairs than in the ♀. *Head* transverse, cheeks, posterior angles, and posterior border rounded; *mandibles* undeveloped, represented by very small round hairy bosses; *clypeus* transverse, convex, anterior border rounded; gradually becoming straighter towards the temples and base; *frontal carinae* very short, divergent; *eyes* large, very prominent, situated on each side of the head; *ocelli* moderate, anterior ocellus slightly larger than the other two, situated in a slight depression; *antennae* 12-jointed, all joints longer than broad, *scape* short, only a little longer than 1st joint of *funiculus*, all the other joints longer and of about equal length and breadth, except the last, which is longer and pointed, about equal in length to the two preceding taken together. *Thorax*

broader in front than behind, broadest just before insertion of fore-wing; *pronotum* transverse and narrow anteriorly, broader at sides; *scutum* of *mesonotum* convex and prominent, rounded in front and at sides; *mayrian furrows* indistinct, marked by a few shallow punctures, the space between being also shallowly punctured; *parapsidal furrows* also somewhat indistinct; *prae-scutellum* transverse, very narrow in middle; *scutellum* convex, prominent; *metanotum* transverse, very narrow, with sharp raised edges at sides; *epinotum* with dorsal surface concave in middle, shorter than declivity, angle between dorsal surface well marked, declivity straight, flat. *Petiole* long, with two short blunt teeth, or projections, situated one on each side before node, which is round, but rather flat; *post petiole* rounded above and at sides, not or scarcely broader than node of petiole, a small tooth or projection is present beneath as in the ♀; *gaster* long oval, broadest at apex of first segment, which takes up over half the dorsal surface of the gaster. *Genitalia* exerted in one of the specimens; the *stipites* are rather broad and bluntly pointed, the *volsellae* possess a broad lobe at the base on the outer side (dorsal view), the inner side consisting of long sharply pointed very thin sickle-shaped hooks; the *sagittae* are rather narrow slightly curved appendages, which, however, are not so thin nor so sharply pointed as the hooks of the volsellae.

Legs long and slender. *Wings* dusky and hairy; fore-wing with lower margin of apical half somewhat broadly lobate, pterostigma and veins brown, one fairly large cubital cell is present, no discoidal cell, and the fairly long, radial cell is open. *Long.* 4 mm.

Larva. Dirty yellowish-white (in spirit specimens), of the gourd-shaped type with a crooked neck. The head is prolonged into a beak (the mandibles, etc.); the whole body clothed with short outstanding hairs of different lengths and structure. (*N.B.*—The dark spot in the figure where the eye might be supposed to be is, of course, not an eye at all, as ant larvae never possess eyes.)

Described from a number of workers and two males, Cocotte Mt., Mauritius (*R. Mamet*). Type and ♂ type in British Museum (Natural History). Mr. Mamet took 30 workers, two males, larvae, and pupae from a colony nesting under a flat stone on 27th December 1941 (No. 26); and again in similar circumstances 40 workers, larvae, and pupae, on 6th February 1943 (No. 6). He remarks: "A curious species which when disturbed simulates death."

My best thanks are due to Mr. R. W. Lloyd for kindly providing the drawings.