

A NEW SPECIES OF *DIPLOMORIUM* (HYM. FORMICIDAE),
WITH SOME NOTES ON THE GENUS.

BY HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., etc.

Diplomorium cotterelli sp. n.

♀. Black, very shining, mandibles, antennae, tibiae, trochanters, extreme base and apex of femora yellow, rest of femora blackish. Clothed with sparse outstanding hairs, slightly more numerous on gaster.

Head oblong, sides rounded, broadest across eyes, posterior angles rounded, posterior border slightly emarginate. *Mandibles* smooth, but with a few scattered shallow punctures, armed with three sharp teeth; *clypeus* without teeth or carinae, transverse, narrow, anterior border rounded, posterior portion extending between the frontal carinae; *frontal carinae* fairly short, narrow, almost parallel, not very close together; *frontal area* indistinct; *eyes* moderate, slightly longer than broad, flat, situated in front of middle of head; *antennae* fairly long, 11-jointed, *scape* not reaching posterior border of head; *funiculus* with first joint longer and broader than the following six, which are transverse, antipenultimate joint longer and broader than the preceding joints, but distinctly shorter and narrower than the penultimate joint, forming a three-jointed club, last joint longer than the three preceding taken together.

Thorax longer than broad, broadest across humeral angles; *pronotum* margined at sides, anterior angles rounded; *pro-mesonotal suture* not present on dorsal surface; *meso-epinotal suture* deep; *epinotum* convex and rounded, angle between dorsal surface and declivity not marked; *petiole* distinctly pedunculate, *node* rather high, apex bluntly pointed, anterior surface longer than posterior surface, both slightly concave; *post-petiole* very slightly broader than petiole, rounded anteriorly and at sides, broadest before middle. *Gaster* oblong oval, narrowed in front and behind, anterior border truncate, apex pointed, first segment very long. *Legs* moderate, *femora* spindle-shaped.

Long. 2-3 mm.

Described from 7 workers, "No. 1370 Gold Coast, E.P. Tofo, xii. 1940. G. G. Cotterell." Type in B.M. (N.H.).

Judging by the size and colour of the worker and female of *D. longipenne* Mayr (♀ 1.8-1.9 mm.; ♀ 9.5-10 mm.; colour of both pale brown), and of the female of *D. saharensis* Santschi (9 mm., head and thorax yellowish brown, gaster light yellow), *D. cotterelli* is quite distinct from either, being larger and very differently coloured. Moreover, with such a rare genus, and with a very limited, though widely separated distribution, as far as is at present known, it

would be very unlikely to find either of the two known species in the Gold Coast.

The genus *Diplomorium* (subfamily *Myrmicinae*, tribe *Solenopsidini*) was founded by Mayr (1901, *Ann. Naturf. Hofmus. Wien*, 16 : 16) for the reception of a single species, *D. longipenne* Mayr, ♀♀ (*l.c.*, p. 18) from Cape Colony. It is closely related to both *Solenopsis* and *Monomorium*, the antennae being intermediate. Emery (1922, *Gen. Ins.*, 174B : 194) divides the genus into two subgenera, *Diplomorium* Mayr and *Bondroitia* Forel (1911, *Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sci. Nat.*, 47 : 398). In the latter subgenus no eyes are present in the worker, the antennal club is very distinctly 3-jointed and the antennae are sometimes only 10-jointed. It seems better to treat these two subgenera as distinct genera as, in fact, does Wheeler in his Ants of the Belgian Congo (1922, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 45 : 877).

Santschi described the only other known *Diplomorium*, *D. saharensis* (1923, *Rev. Zool. Africa*, 11 : 278), from a female and male taken in Central Sahara.

LIMENITIS CAMILLA AND POLYGONIA C-ALBUM IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—Mr. Tedley's record (*Entom.*, 75 : 27) of *L. camilla* in the Stoke Bishop area of Bristol is particularly interesting. It is the first record of this species there of which I have heard. As one who was born there, and lived there for many years, I thought I was conversant with all the local species. I certainly never saw anything that looked remotely like *camilla*—and I can remember thinking, as a child, that *camilla* was an insect which was pictured in butterfly books, but which I was never likely to see! I should be glad to hear of any other records in the same district, if any exist. Mr. Tedley's record is all the more interesting because the character of Stoke Bishop has changed completely in the last 20–30 years. It was then largely a rural area, but is now, I regret to say, almost entirely urbanized. What I remember as farms, fields and lanes are now shops, garages and car-filled streets. So that, if *camilla* had been a local inhabitant even then, it would be surprising if it had managed to survive the progress of civilization. However, if it is indeed a regular local inhabitant, I trust that collectors will leave it in peace and give it a fair chance to continue its miraculous survival. With regard to the district in question, it is perhaps worthy of record that *P. c-album* has been indigenous there as far back as my entomological memory reaches, which is about 1917. It is one of the first species I ever remember catching, and was always much in evidence on the Buddleia trees in my father's garden during the post-war years, when collectors were complaining of the scarcity of *c-album* all over the country. I have done no collecting in the district for some years, and should be glad to hear whether it is still fairly abundant there.—
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