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A NEW SPECIES OF *APHAENOGASTER* (HYM. FORMICIDAE)
FROM INDIA

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Aphaenogaster (*Attomyrma*) *beesoni*, sp. n.

♂. Mandibles, antennae, part of anterior portion of head, petiole and post petiole brownish-yellow, rest of head and thorax black, gaster brown, lighter at apex, legs yellow. Body clothed with longer and shorter widely scattered yellow bristles.

Head dull longitudinally striate (more markedly so round the cheeks, along the inner sides of the eyes, and along the frontal carinae and front) with cross striation forming a raised network, the ground surface covered with small granulated punctures; *mandibles* longitudinally striate; *clypeus* longitudinally striate; *frontal area* deep, smooth; *antennae* long and slender, *funiculus* with 1st joint a little longer than the following 6, which are of about equal length, and a little longer than broad, joints 8-10 of the funiculus longer, and of about equal length, last joint about as long as the two preceding taken together.

Thorax with dorsal surface somewhat shining; *pronotum* covered on dorsal surface with numerous small very shallow round punctures arranged in transverse rows, and a few raised transverse ridges posteriorly, sides more rugose and with more and stronger raised transverse ridges; *promesonotal suture* well marked; *mesonotum* with anterior portion raised forming a lozenge-shaped projection (Bingham describes this as a ridge or crest in *A. cristata*, Forel and *A. smythiesi*, Forel), its anterior border longitudinally striate, posterior dorsal portion, and sides of the mesonotum, with similar puncturation to that of the pronotum; *meso-epinotal suture* well marked; *epinotum* transversely striate on the dorsal surface and more finely so between the *spines* which are short, acute, and pointing slightly outwards; sides of the *epinotum* with similar puncturation to that of the mesonotum; nodes of the *petiole* and *post petiole* smooth and shining on dorsal surface, finely punctured at sides; the *petiole* is furnished with a rather long pedicel; *gaster* smooth and shining with a few short longitudinal striae at the junction with the post petiole. *Tibiae* furnished with short decumbent whitish hairs.

Long. 4.4-5.7 mm.

Aphaenogaster beesoni comes nearest to *A. smythiesi* from which it differs in colour and puncturation, etc. The latter is much more shining, the posterior part of the head and pronotum are almost smooth, the puncturation of the body is quite different, and the insect is somewhat more hairy, etc.

Described from a number of ♂♂ taken by Mr. C. F. C. Beeson under stones at heights of 5500 ft., on May 14th, 1924, at Simla, Kotkhal, and 8000 ft., Kalala.

Type in the British Museum.

The subgenus *Attomyrma* of *Aphaenogaster* inhabits the Holarctic Region, including the shores of the Mediterranean, the Himalayas, and Mexico. It is also found as a fossil in amber. One species occurs in Madagascar which is very closely related to the European *A. subterranea*, Lat., and is probably an introduction.

The genus is not represented in the British Isles.