

IRENEOPONE GIBBER (HYM., FORMICIDAE), A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES  
OF MYRMICINE ANT FROM MAURITIUS

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**Ireneopone** gen.n.

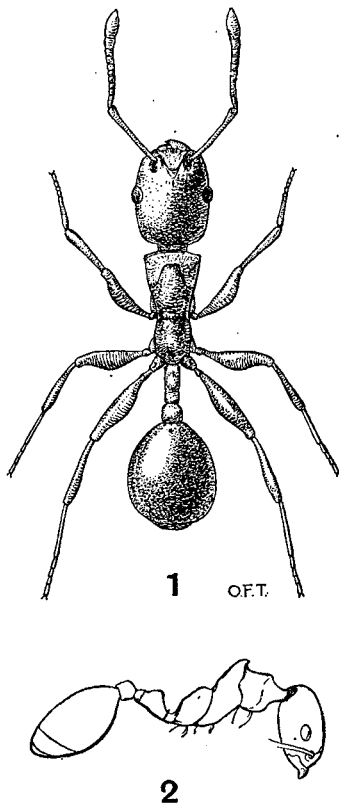
Head more or less rectangular, clypeus triangular, extending between the antennae, posterior margin bordering the antennal cavities anteriorly. Antennae twelve-jointed, maxillary palpi five-jointed, labial palpi three-jointed. Thorax with sharp anterior angles to pronotum, separated from mesonotum by a fine suture more marked at sides, mesonotum with a raised pointed hump, suture between mesonotum and epinotum well defined, epinotum unarmed, petiole long, narrow, armed with two small teeth at base and with a raised node on dorsal surface, postpetiole subquadrate, broader but shorter than petiole, gaster oval.

GENOTYPE: *I. gibber* sp.n.

**Ireneopone gibber** sp.n.

♂. Reddish brown, shining, gaster darker.

Head subrectangular, longer than broad, posterior angles rounded, posterior border and cheeks straight, covered with small, shallow, scattered punctures which bear a microscopical decumbent yellow hair; *mandibles* powerful, triangular, faintly longitudinally striate and punctate, masticatory border armed with three teeth, the apical one being the longest and sharpest, the 2nd (counting from apex) longer and sharper than 3rd, the 3rd small and rather blunt; *clypeus* large, triangular, convex on disc, anterior border straight in middle, sinuate on each side, forming a sharp angle with central area, posterior border round at base, projecting between insertion of antennae, bordering at sides the antennal cavities anteriorly; *frontal area* small, triangular, not very clearly defined, a very short shallow *central furrow* extending from it; *antennae* twelve-jointed, *scape* just reaching posterior border of head, *funiculus* with 1st joint longer and broader than the following seven joints, *club* three-jointed, last joint longer than the two preceding taken together; *maxillary palpi* five-jointed; *labial palpi* three-jointed; *eyes* black, oval, fairly large, not prominent, situated a little in front of centre of sides of head. *Thorax* longer than broad, narrow, furnished with a neck, broadest across anterior angles of pronotum; *pronotum* transverse, finely rugosely punctured with a raised margin anteriorly separating it from neck, anterior angles sharply pointed, sides rounded; *mesonotum* oval, smooth anteriorly, finely rugosely punctured posteriorly, separated from pronotum by a fine suture, more marked at sides, projecting in a hump, which when seen in profile extends in a sharp point over pronotum; *suture* between mesonotum and epinotum deep, well marked; *sternite of mesothorax* closely and rather rugosely punctured; *spiracles* projecting; *epinotum* long, sloping, finely rugosely punctured, a fine carina present on disc, which in profile forms a slightly raised hump, dorsal surface much shorter than declivity, angle between not marked, declivity smooth and concave posteriorly. *Petiole* long, narrow, finely punctured, slightly broadest at apex, armed at base with two very small sharp teeth and with a small raised node on dorsal surface, rounded above; *post-petiole* subquadrate, slightly broader than petiole, sides and posterior border straight, anterior angles bluntly pointed; *gaster* oval, smooth and shining, first segment occupying greater part of dorsal surface. *Legs* moderate, *femora* spindle-shaped. *Long.* 3.5 mm.



FIGS. 1-2.—*Ireneopone gibber* gen. et sp.n.; 1, from above; 2, in profile.

Described from three workers, Nos. 72 and 82. Two taken by R. Mamet

on Calebasses Mt., Mauritius, October 22nd, 1944, and one taken by J. Vinson on Le Pouce Mt., Mauritius, December 7th, 1940. Type in B.M. Coll. *Ireneopone* comes in the tribe Tetramoriini, subfamily Myrmicinae.

British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London, S.W.7.

May 11th, 1946.