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

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

Echinopla crenulata sp. n.

♂. Black, rather dull; anterior part of masticatory border of mandibles except teeth, apex of last joint of antennae, extreme apex of scape and first joint of funiculus, extreme apex of femora and tibiae, last two joints of anterior and posterior tarsi, apex of other joints, spurs, and claws, reddish yellow; palpi yellow. Head, thorax and petiole sparingly covered with a fine grey pubescence, whole body with long outstanding not very close yellow hairs. Sculpture of head, thorax and petiole consisting of deep punctures or pits of irregular shape and size (not so marked on petiole), the spaces between being raised smooth and somewhat shining, the punctuation of the gaster being smaller, closer, and more regular. Head transverse above, narrowed in front, cheeks and temples rounded, posterior border narrowly margined, with sharp posterior angles, sinuate on each side in front of neck, slightly and roundly produced between the sinuations; mandibles longitudinally striate, smooth at base, broad at masticatory border, which is armed with five not very sharp teeth, the two at base being small; clypeus transverse, rather flat, anterior border slightly sinuate in middle and somewhat sharp and raised; frontal area indistinct; a distinct longitudinal narrow carina between the frontal carinae; eyes very globose and prominent, but not large. Antennae: scape shining, punctured, not extending beyond posterior border of head; funiculus pubescent, 1st joint longer than 2nd, joints 2-11 gradually increasing in length and breadth; last joint pointed, equal in length to the two preceding taken together. Thorax not very convex above, subquadrate, no sutures on dorsal surface, contracted on each side where the meso-epinotal suture would be; sides crenulate, the crenulation being strongest at the sides of the anterior and posterior borders and extending a little way along both on each side; pronotum with a distinct narrow transverse neck which is smooth and shining, anterior angles ending in a sharp tooth formed by the crenulations; epinotum rounded at posterior angles and at base; there is no angle between the dorsal surface and the declivity, the former being gradually rounded into the latter. Scale of petiole narrow, transverse, truncate in front, armed at sides with six teeth as follows: one small tooth just before anterior angles and slightly raised; a second, a little longer, situated at anterior angles, followed by a third longer than the other two; after an interval comes the longest tooth, followed by a shorter one and a still shorter one after that; gaster long oval, the very long first segment with a narrow raised shining margin at base. Long, 6 mm.

Type in B.M. (N.H.).

Described from a single worker taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman in Dutch New Guinea, Waigeu Island, Camp Nok, 2500 ft., April, 1938.

Smith founded the genus *Echinopla* (1857, *Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond. Zool.*, 2 : 79) for the reception of his species *E. melanarctos* from Singapore.

The distribution of the species of this genus extends from the Nicobar Islands and Malasia to New Guinea and Queensland.

The characters of the genus are as follows :

♀. *Body* massive, with more or less parallel sides. *Head* short, truncate posteriorly; *eyes* placed before the middle of the sides, globose in some species. *Clypeus* very short, anterior border not projecting; *frontal area* distinct or wanting. *Frontal carinae* short and very wide apart. *Mandibles* with a short masticatory border, toothed; *maxillary palpi* 5-jointed; *labial palpi* 4-jointed. *Thorax* broad, high; *shoulders* rounded or dentate; upper surface obtusely margined or rounded; *sutures* on dorsal surface sometimes wanting; usually the *meso-epinotal suture* is very distinct and often impressed. Sometimes the *pro-mesonotal suture* is present and terminates in a notch on the lateral borders of the upper surface. *Epinotum* arched, unarmed, and without a declivity. *Petiole* short, armed at each side with a long spine, or two or three short ones. *Basal segment* covering at least two-thirds of the gaster.

♀. Head and petiole as in the ♀, except that *ocelli* are present.

♂. Unknown.

There are 19 described species, 1 subspecies, and 3 varieties of *Echinopla* including this new species; only five females are known and no males. It is very curious, but in all the literature I have searched I have been unable to find any reference concerning the habits or life-history of these very distinct looking ants. They are all of moderate size, none being very small. It is evident that no nests have been found and all the captures just casual ones.

Entomological Department,
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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

THE HABITS AND FOOD-PLANT OF APAMEA UNANIMIS TR.—In the last number of the *Entomologist* (74 : 21-22), Dr. de Worms gives a few notes concerning the present species not in complete harmony with my observations, which extend over a period of many years, and cover a stretch of country lying between Co. Durham and Strathpeffer, Ross-shire. He speaks of finding larvae of the species in great profusion feeding on the short stems of *Phragmites*. In spite of the fact that I have obtained, and can still obtain at the proper season, thousands of larvae of this species, never at any time, or at any place, have I seen it on *Phragmites*; in my experience it is com-