

No. 237.
 m. g. *Smith*

IRENEIDRIS MYOPS GEN. ET SP.N. (HYM., FORMICIDAE) FROM
 WAIGEU ISLAND, DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

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***Ireneidris** gen. n.**

Eyes exceedingly small, only consisting of one omatidium; mandibles when closed leaving a distinct space before clypeus; club of antennae very large and very distinctly three-jointed, considerably longer than the rest of the funiculus, last joint twice as long as the two preceding taken together; no spurs to posterior pairs of tibiae. Otherwise nearest to *Monomorium* Mayr.

GENOTYPE: *I. myops* sp. n.

***Ireneidris myops* sp. n.**

♀. Pale yellow, smooth and shining, teeth of mandibles reddish; clothed with sparse short yellow outstanding hairs.

Head oval, longer than broad, posterior angles round, posterior border slightly excised in middle, broadest just behind eyes; *mandibles* moderately long, narrow, masticatory border armed with four small sharp teeth; *clypeus* transverse, narrow, triangular, slightly convex on disc, anterior border rounded, slightly projecting in middle, sinuate on each side, rather indistinctly bicarinate; *frontal*

* The late Professor Wheeler pointed out in 1938 (*Proc. New Engl. zool. Cl.*, 15: 1) that '*myrmex*' and '*myrma*' had been somewhat overworked as combining forms in generic names of ants, and suggested '*idris*' might be used to advantage. From Ἰδρις—'the knowing or provident one'—Hesiod's name for an ant.

area indistinct; *frontal carinae* short, divergent behind; *eyes* round, not projecting; *antennae* twelve-jointed, *scape* extending as far as posterior border of head, *funiculus* with first joint longer than broad, longer and broader than each of the seven following joints which are short and transverse, first joint of club as long as but slightly narrower than second; *maxillary palpi* two-jointed; *labial palpi* two-jointed. *Thorax* longer than broad, not as broad as head; *pro-mesonotal suture* wanting; *promesonotum* convex, rounded anteriorly, and at sides broadest before middle, broader than epinotum; *meso-epinotal suture* deeply impressed; *epinotum* unarmed, dorsal surface longer than declivity, somewhat flat on disc, angle between it and declivity more or less distinct. *Petiole* with long narrow peduncle and small narrow node, anterior and posterior surfaces of node oblique, rounded at sides, upper surface rounded, narrow; *post-petiole* rounded at sides and above, about as high and as broad as node of petiole; *gaster* oval, sides rounded, narrowed and pointed behind, broadest before middle of first segment, anterior border slightly excised for reception of post-petiole. *Legs* moderate. *Long.* 1.7-2 mm.

Described from twelve workers taken by Miss L. E. Cheesman in Dutch New Guinea, Waigeu Island, Camp Nok, 2,500 ft., on May 4th, 1938, quite six inches below the ground between the roots of a large tree, where they were following trails right under the soil.

Type in British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

Named in honour of Miss Irene Kirk, who has helped me greatly with my entomological studies, literary and otherwise.

This new genus comes in the subfamily Myrmicinae Lepeletier, tribe Solenopsidini Forel, subtribe Monomoriini Emery. In some characters it does not agree with any known genus in the subfamily, tribe or subtribe, nor with any of the subgenera of *Monomorium* Mayr. The very small eyes and formation of the club of the antennae are very remarkable.

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

February 5th, 1943.