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PROTALARIDRIS genus nov.

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Insecta: Hymenoptera: Formicidae:
Myrmicinae: Basicerotini

DIAGNOSIS (worker and dealate queen): general characters as in Rhopalothrix and Talaridris, but with the following differences:

- (1) Antennae 9-merous; segments III-VII short and transverse.
- (2) Mandibles long, slender, their insertions remote, but the shafts converging to cross at apices when closure is complete, each tapering toward an acute, incurved, straight apical spine. As seen from the side, shafts curved markedly dorsad from base toward apex away from main axis of cranium, much as in Talaridris. Inner margins of mandibular shafts each armed with 2 long, spaced, slender teeth and 3 smaller teeth or denticles in addition to apical spine.

Male, larva, wing venation unknown.

TYPE SPECIES: Protalaridris armata sp. nov., Pilot Register of Zoology, Card No. 37. Monobasic.

DISTRIBUTION: Pacific slope of Andes in Ecuador and Colombia, in wet forest.

AFFINITIES: Close to Rhopalothrix, and especially to Talaridris, both of which have antennae 7-merous. In Talaridris, mandibles are also upcurved, but are short compared to Protalaridris armata, and the shorter and longer teeth are concentrated in a small area near to the apex, though they still appear to be homologous with the more widely-spaced teeth of Protalaridris.

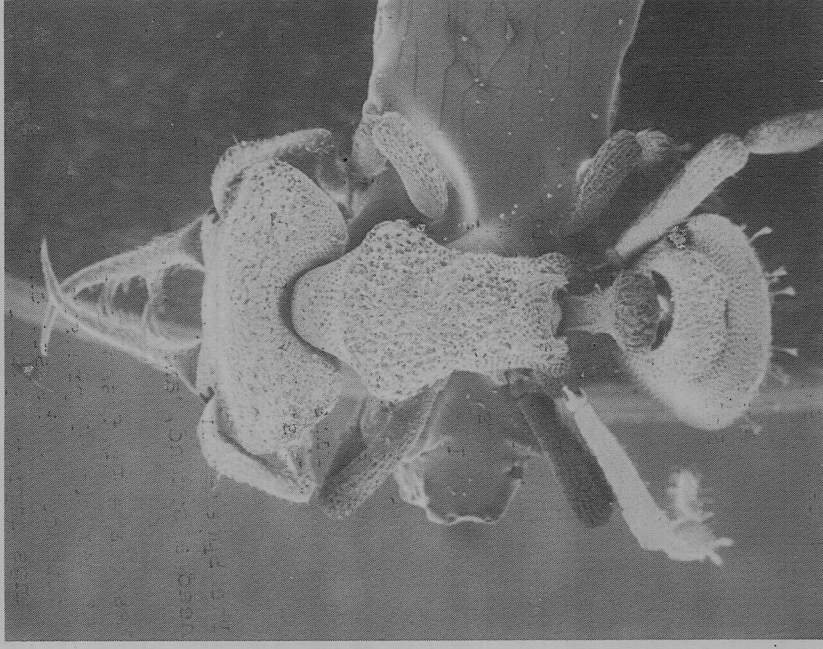


Fig. 1, Protalaridris armata sp. n., paratype worker from Pichincha Prov., Ecuador, dorsal view. SEM photograph by Norman F. Johnson.

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