

A REMARKABLE NEW SPECIES OF *PROCERATIUM*,  
WITH DIETARY AND OTHER NOTES ON THE GENUS  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)<sup>1</sup>

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INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this paper is to describe an extraordinary new insect from Madagascar. This ant has, in effect, two tail ends, one of which, the false end, is a logical extension of the tendency in certain *Proceratium* species (e.g., *P. pergandei* and *P. micrommatum*) for the second gastric segment to extend rearward, while the true gastric apex projects from its ventral aspect in an anterior direction. The adaptive reason for this down-and-forward orientation of the true abdominal apex is not entirely understood, though it is clear that the deployment of the sting is usually an important feature of prey-attack in ponerine ants.

***Proceratium diplopyx* new species**

Figs. 1, 2.

Holotype worker: TL 6.0, HL (including clypeus) 1.44, HW 1.25, ML (beyond clypeus) 0.15, scape L 1.12, eye diameter 0.12, WL 1.77, petiole L in side view 0.70, gaster L 1.97, hind tibia L 1.26, hind femur L 1.53 mm. CI 87, SI 90. (A single paratype worker hardly differs from the holotype by more than the usual errors of measurement, except that the head is slightly wider: HW 1.29 mm, CI 90.)

Habitus well portrayed in figures 1 and 2. Figure 2 shows the head tilted slightly back from the full-face view plane, so that the posterior cephalic margin appears straight and is slightly surpassed by the scapes laid back in repose. In perfect full-face view, the center of the posterior margin is feebly concave, and the scape laid back does not

<sup>1</sup>A report of research from the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The research was supported in part by National Science Foundation Grant GB-31662

*Manuscript received by the editor February 14, 1980*