

Reprinted from
 OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
 OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA. No. 11.
 Vol. 2 (THE RHODESIAN MUSEUM)

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

July 17, 1944.

NEW SPECIES OF AFRICAN HYMENOPTERA
 No. 5*

BY DR G. ARNOLD, National Museum of Southern Rhodesia

Family METHOCIDAE

Methoca Braunsi André, var. **cataractae** Arn. (Figs. 1, 1a)

1901, André, *Z. Syst. Hym. Dipt.* 1, 281.

1934, Arnold, *Occ. Papers Rhod. Mus.* III, 33 (Figs. 3, 3a).

At the time when this variety was described it was not possible to compare it with the type of the species, since it, and also the type of *minima* André, could not be found. Mr van Son of the Transvaal Museum kindly made another search in the Braunsian collection and the types were eventually discovered mixed up with the Mutillidae.

A comparison of *cataractae* with *Braunsi* shows that the former is a distinct species, differing from *Braunsi* in several characters, as follows:

Legs and basal joints of the flagellum and the mandibles dark ferruginous (yellowish red in *Braunsi*). Face, vertex and occiput dull, with a close longitudinal rugulosity connected by fine transverse anastomoses, and behind the ocellar area, sparsely sprinkled with very shallow pit-like punctures. Temples dull, longitudinally rugulose and sparsely, shallowly punctured. In *Braunsi* the whole of the head, excepting the anterior half of the clypeus, is shining; the face, vertex and occiput are sharply and longitudinally rugulose and punctured with large and comparatively deep pits, more sparsely on the face than on the top of the head, where the interspaces are only twice as wide as the punctures; the temples are sparsely and strongly punctured and without rugulosity. The dorsum of the thorax in *cataractae* is duller than in *Braunsi*, owing to the presence of fine transverse anastomoses between the rugae on the pro-mesonotum and metanotum, and to a superficial reticulation between the rugae on the epinotum. In addition, the puncturation is much sparser, smaller and shallower in *cataractae*. The rugosity on the epinotum is transverse, whereas in *Braunsi* it is obliquely longitudinal.

The puncturation of tergites 3-5 is much stronger in *Braunsi*. Drawings of the head and thorax of *Braunsi* are given herewith, and a

* The first three papers under this title were published in the *Occasional Papers of the Rhodesian Museum*, nos. 2, 3, 5 (1933, 1934 and 1936), and the fourth in *Ann. Trans. Mus.* XX (1940).