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New Formicidae from Kenya and Uganda

BY

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The National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Bulawayo

Subfamily Ponerinae

Simopone laevissima sp. n. (figs 1, 1a) ✓✓

♀ 7 mm. long. Jet black, the scapes, middle and hind tibiae fusco-ferruginous, the flagellum and all the tarsi ferruginous. Anterior corners of the pronotum, the petiole and sides of the tergites with a few, very long, exerted and pale yellow hairs, the apical tergite and sternite with a similar but more abundant pubescence. The whole body polished, very shining and with a very fine and sparse puncturation, the interspaces for the greater part ten times wider than the punctures, and even wider on the abdomen. Mandibles very convex, edentate, and with a few small punctures.

Head, excluding the mandibles, one-fifth longer than wide behind the eyes, where it is widest and one-fourth wider than at the anterior margin. Clypeus without carinae, its anterior margin convex, the hind margin indistinct. Scapes three times longer than wide at the apex. First three joints of the flagellum as long as wide, the fourth to ninth joints slightly longer than wide, the apical joint a little more than twice as long as wide. Frontal carinae strongly divergent caudad, extending back to the level of the middle of the eyes. The sides of the head in front, behind the antennal sockets, swollen, forming an elongate tubercle. Eyes very prominent, placed in the middle of the sides. Occipital margin feebly concave, the posterior corners of the head rounded. Three very small ocelli are present. Pronotum sharply marginate in front, moderately convex transversely, one-ninth wider in front than behind, one and a half times wider in front than long, the anterior angles acute. Pro-mesonotal and meso-epinotal sutures very shallow. Mesonotum three-fifths wider than long. Dorsum of the epinotum one-fifth wider behind than long, slightly wider behind than in front, the declivity flat, subvertical and a little more than half as long as the dorsum.

Petiole gradually widened caudad, one-fifth wider behind than in front, the dorsal face convex transversely and lengthwise, one-fourth longer than wide, the posterior angles rounded, the hind margin distinctly concave. First tergite as long as wide, the second shorter than the first and about one-fourth wider than long. Fifth tergite strongly convex transversely, the apex acute.

Dedewe Forest, on the Lake shore, near Kampala, Uganda. One specimen climbing the trunk of a palm tree. Type in the National Museum Southern Rhodesia.

Although the colour is so different, this species is more nearly related to *S. marleyi* ARN. than to the other Ethiopian species from which it differs by the very fine and sparse puncturation.

Platythyrea occidentalis E. ANDRÉ (figs. 2, 2a). ✓✓

1890 Rev. d'Ent. Caen, 9, 315, ♀.

♀ (hitherto undescribed), 7 mm. long. Black. Mandibles, antennae and legs brownish red, all the femora and the basitarsi of the middle and hind legs somewhat darker. Whole body dull, microscopically reticulate-punctate (magnification 70 diameters) and with a fine puncturation superimposed. On the head these punctures are round and largest on the anterior half of the upper side, excluding the inter-antennal