

TETRAPONERA PISARSKII SP. NOV. – THE FIRST NATIVE MEMBER OF SUBFAMILY PSEUDOMYRMICINAE FROM PALAEARCTIC ASIA

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Abstract.— *Tetraponera pisarskii* sp. nov. is described from worker, from North Korea. It is the first native *Tetraponera* species in Palaearctic Asia. New species differs from all Asian *Tetraponera* in ochraceous-yellow colour of body.



Key words.— Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Tetraponera*, taxonomy, Korea.

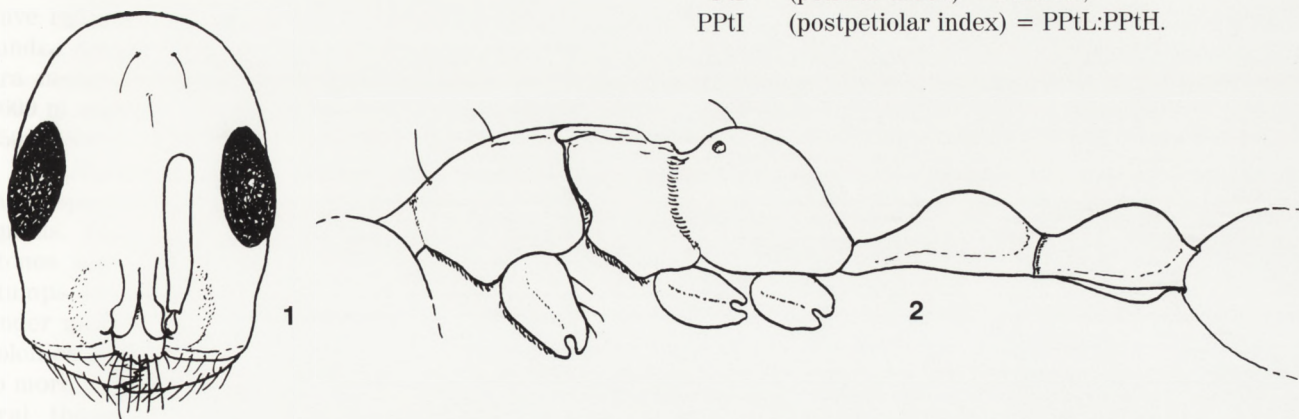
Genus *Tetraponera* F. Smith includes more than 100 described species and subspecies, which are distributed mainly in the Old World Tropics. Only few of them are known from southern part of Palaearctic (Bolton, 1995). During a study of the ant collection in the Museum and Institute of Zoology (Polish Academy of Sciences), Warsaw, one specimen of a new *Tetraponera* species, collected by Prof. B. Pisarski in Northern Korea, was found unexpectedly. It is the first native Palaearctic representative of this tropical genus.

All *Tetraponera* are typical arboreal ants, nesting in thin dry branches of trees and shrubs. They have elongate, slender body, long petiole and postpetiole, and short legs. Biology of *Tetraponera* species is poorly known, and no taxonomic revision of this genus has been made until now.

The only two papers published in the last years deal with taxonomy of Vietnamese (Dlussky and Radchenko, 1990) and Chinese (Wu and Wang, 1990) *Tetraponera* species.

MEASUREMENTS AND INDICES

- HL – length of head in full-face view, measured in a straight line from the anterior point of the median clypeal margin to mid-point of the occipital margin;
- HW – maximum width of the head in full-face view;
- SL – maximum straight-line length of the antennal scape in lateral view;
- OL – maximum diameter of eyes;
- AL – the diagonal length of the alitrunk in lateral view from the posterior base of the metapleural lobes to the anterior border of the neck shield;
- PtL – length of petiole in lateral view;
- PPtL – length of postpetiole in lateral view;
- PtH – height of petiole in lateral view;
- PPtH – height of postpetiole in lateral view;
- CI (cephalic index) = HL:HW;
- SLI (scape length index) = HL:SL;
- OI (ocular index) = HL:OL;
- PtI (petiolar index) = PtL:PtH;
- PPtI (postpetiolar index) = PPtL:PPtH.



Figures 1 and 2. *Tetraponera pisarskii* sp. nov., holotype worker: 1 – head in full-face view; 2 – alitrunk, petiole and postpetiole in profile.

Tetraponera pisarskii sp. nov.

Material examined. Holotype worker: Korea, Pyongyang, 21.VII. 1959 (leg. B. Pisarski).

Deposition of holotype. Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw.

Measurements. HL=0.66 mm; HW=0.49 mm; SL=0.28 mm; OL=0.22 mm; AL=0.91 mm; Ptl=0.42 mm; PptL=0.27 mm.

Diagnosis of worker (see Figs 1 and 2). Head elongate (CI=1.38), slightly narrowed anteriorly, with widely rounded ventral corners and somewhat convex occipital margin. Eyes large (OI=2.94), flattened, oval, situated approximately in the middle of lateral sides of head. Ocelli absent. Antennal scapes short (SLI=2.35), funiculus with 5-jointed club; second to fifth funicular joints obviously transverse, joints of antennal club (except elongate apical one) sub-square.

Mesosoma long, promesonotum slightly convex, metanotal groove deep, propodeum convex, rounded, flattened laterally, its horizontal part shorter, than declivity.

Petiolar node long and low (Pti=2.50), longer than anterior peduncle; postpetiole also low and elongate (Ppti=1.73).

Body smooth and shining. Sparse long curved hairs present on occiput, clypeus, pronotum, and gaster.

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Antennal scapes and legs without hairs. Decumbent pubescence absent.

Entire body and appendages ochraceous-yellow.

Comments. *T. pisarskii* differs from all Asian *Tetraponera* species by yellow colour of the body.

Biology. Unknown.

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