

**REDESCRIPTION OF *LEPISIOTA MODESTA* FOREL  
(HYMENOPTERA : FORMICIDAE : FORMICINAE)**

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## REDESCRIPTION OF *LEPISIOTA MODESTA* FOREL (HYMENOPTERA : FORMICIDAE : FORMICINAE)

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### ABSTRACT

*Lepisiota modesta* Forel is described and illustrated.

**Key words :** Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Formicinae, *Lepisiota modesta*.

### Introduction

*Lepisiota modesta* was discovered by Forel (1894) from Mussoorie (Uttaranchal), India. But instead of providing full description of this species, Forel diagnosed it in key only on the basis of few characters. Bingham (1903) could not record this species and cited Forel's diagnosis in his *Fauna of British India*.

Now the species has been recollected from the same locality, after almost a hundred years, and is fully described and illustrated in this paper.

### *Lepisiota modesta* Forel

*J. Bombay nat. hist. soc.*, 8 : 412. 1894

**Worker (Figs. 1 & 2) :** Length : 2.66 mm; Head length : 0.66mm; Head width: 0.43mm; Scape length : 0.66mm; scape index : 153.5; eye diameter : 0.08mm; pronotal width : 0.41mm; alitrunk length : 0.83mm; cephalic index : 65.15.

**Head (Fig. 1) :** Longer than broad, slightly broader posteriorly than in front, posterior

margin transverse; mandibles with masticatory margin oblique, dentate; antennae 11 jointed; antennal scrobes absent; scape passing beyond the top of head by 1/4th of its length; eyes large, more frontal and placed slightly above midline of head; frontal carinae short, wide apart; shallow line present between carinae; antennal sockets confluent with posterior clypeal margin; clypeus large, convex in middle with broadly rounded anterior margin; head smooth and shining, covered with few erect hair on posterior margin and frontal part, more dense on anterior margin of clypeus; scape and flagellum with scattered pubescence with out erect hair.

**Alitrunk and Petiole (Fig. 2) :** Pronotum broad and convex, constricted posteriorly; mesonotum constricted, less broader as compared to pronotum, its posterior margin transversally raised; metanotal groove deep and broad as compared to promesonotal suture; propodeum much higher in profile as compared to mesonotum, furnished with two broad thick spines; two short spines along its declivity; petiole with two acute



Figs. 1-3

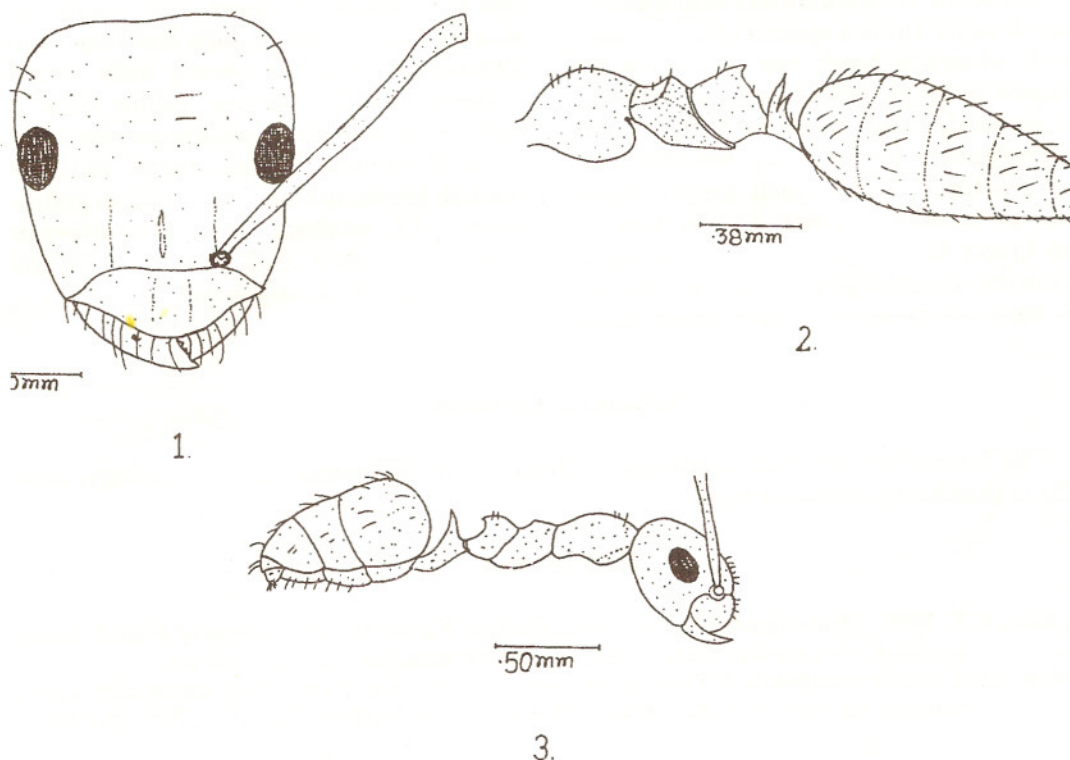
*Lepisiota modesta*

Fig. 1 : Head. Fig. 2 : Alitrunk, petiole and gaster. Fig. 3 : *Lepisiota capensis*.

spines of broad bases; upper margin of petiole deeply emarginate; alitrunk and petiole smooth, shining with few indistinct punctures on mesonotum; covered with sparse erect hair; legs with minute pubescence on tarsii.

**Gaster (Fig. 2) :** Oval, narrowing towards apex; smooth and shining; covered with fine erect hair, much dense as compared to rest of body.

Head, alitrunk and petiole reddish yellow with scape and legs paler; gaster with broad brown bands interspersed by

lighter markings.

**Specimens examined :** 55 workers; India, Uttaranchal, Mussoorie, Dhanaulti; 2,200 m.

**Habitat :** Workers collected from *Pinus* tree.

**Population Variation :** No significant variation among workers.

**Female and Male :** Not recorded yet.

**Distribution :** India, Uttranchal.

### Discussion

*Lepisiota modesta* differs remarkably from all other Indian species of this genus due to elongate head, but is related to *L. capensis* Mayr, 1862 in having smooth and shining head, however differs from it significantly by following combination of characters : head much longer than broad in *L. modesta*; but slightly longer than broad in *L. capensis*; head strongly narrowing anteriorly in *L. capensis*, not so in *L. modesta*; mesonotum more constricted

in *L. modesta*, comparatively less in *L. capensis*; propodeal spines more slender and longer in *L. modesta*; comparatively shorter in *L. capensis*; legs and flagellum pubescent in *L. capensis*; only tarsii pubescent in *L. modesta*; colour shining black with mandibles, antennae, base and apex of femora, tibiae, tarsii entirely reddish brown in *Capensis*; reddish yellow in case of *L. modesta*. Other characters or alitrunk, petiole and gaster as in the figures (Fig. 3 - *L. capensis*).

### Acknowledgement

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