

Notes on African Formicidae (Hymenoptera) - 2

by

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SUBFAMILY FORMICINAE

Oecophylla smaragdina longinoda (Latr.), figs. 1-3

Formica longinoda Latr., 1802, Hist. nat. Fourmis: 184 (♀).

Oecophylla smaragdina longinoda, Emery, 1892, Ann. Soc. ent. Fr. 60: 564.

O. smaragdina var. **longinoda**, L. Reh., 1905, Z. PflKrankh. 15: 135.

O. smaragdina brevinodis Stütz, 1916, Wiss. Ergebn. 2 dtsch. zent. Afr. Exped. 1910-11 1: 396.

O. longinoda (Latr.), Wheeler, 1922, Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist. 45: 227.

FEMALE: As I have been unable to find a proper description of the virgin female of *O. smaragdina* in the literature, I am describing and illustrating it here. Total length 16.8 mm, length from tip of mandibles to apex of epinotum 8.9 mm. Colour of the preserved specimen ferruginous, to a light emerald-green on the thorax, petiole, abdomen and legs. Head and antennae ferruginous. Whole body dull, covered with a fine decumbent silvery pubescence, which on the abdomen is divergent on each side of the middle line and almost undulate; absent on the frontal area. The pilosity scanty, consisting of short erect hairs on the scutum, paraptera of the meso- and metathorax and on the abdomen; also present on the mandibles, anterior border of clypeus, apices of femora and flagella and tarsal segment; absent elsewhere.

The fundamental sculpture consists of a fine close piligerous puncturation, giving the integument a granulated appearance.

The head is triangular in shape, only slightly wider than long, excluding the mandibles, much narrower in front than behind; the anterior margin convex; posterior margin almost straight and the posterior angles rounded. Seen from the side, the head is about three quarters as high as long; highest in the middle.

Clypeus strongly convex from side to side, almost carinate in the middle and nearly twice as wide as long. Frontal area distinct; frontal carinae about two-thirds as long as wide apart. Eyes large, bulging, fairly round and convex; the ocelli large; the oceller triangle raised above the vertex of the head (fig. 2) Scapes extending behind the posterior margin of the head by a little more than half their length. First segment of the flagellum twice as long as the second; the segments decreasing in length from the second to the penultimate one; ninth and tenth segment as wide as long, all the other segments longer than wider. Mandibles

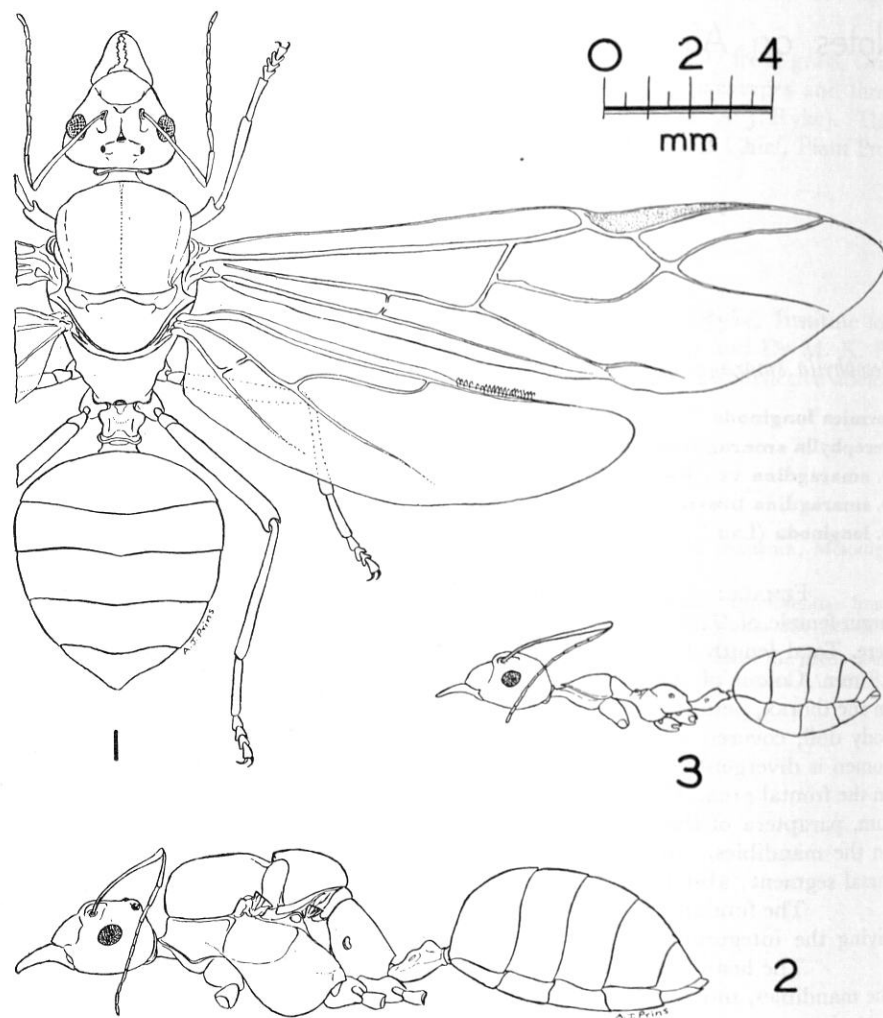


Fig. 1. Virgin female from above.
 Fig. 2. Virgin female in profile (Wings removed).
 Fig. 3. Large worker in profile (on the same scale).

triangular in shape, about half as long as the head, finely reticulate-striate with large piligerous punctures; the masticatory margin with about nine teeth, the apical one large and acute.

The pronotum is not visible from above; mesonotum large, the scutum nearly flat above, slightly wider than long; the anterior border fairly convex; narrower behind than in front; the parapsidal furrows clearly visible, but the Mayrian furrows nearly obsolete. Scutellum higher than the scutum, nearly twice as wide as long; seen from above the apex is very convex and narrow, the anterior border convex in the middle and seen from the side, the anterior face almost vertical. The dorsal surface is rounded from front to back, the meta- and epinotum much lower than the scutellum. The paraptera of the meso- and metanotum distinct, their anterior surfaces very finely reticulate-rugulose and fairly shining. The metanotum represented by a narrow sclerite behind the scutellum; rounded from side to side. The epinotum which is much wider in front than behind is carried lower than the metanotum, its dorsum is obsolete and the declivity subvertical and rounded from side to side.

Seen from the side the thorax is highest near the anterior border of the mesonotal scutellum and about one and a half times as long as high. The mesothoracic sternite large, its vertical surface rounded from front to back.

The petiole about as wide as long, slightly wider in front than behind and seen from the side about two-thirds as high as long, the ventral surface convex; the anterior face long and subvertical. Seen from above the dorsal surface is slightly concave, having a carina on each side, the posterior border emarginate and the lateral margins fairly concave in the middle.

The wings with a reddish tinge; with one closed radial and cubital cell present in the forewings as in the case of *Camponotus*. Hindwings similar to those of *Camponotus* but the radius is absent. The costal margin of each hindwing bears 21 hooks for attaching it to the anal margin of the forewing.

Abdomen about one-seventh longer than wide, the sides fairly convex; the basal band of each segment fairly well exposed and brownish in colour.

MATERIAL: 19♂♂ and one ♀ (alate) collected by J. J. Nel in Sordwana Bay (Nat.), 6.II.1939. This is the first record of the species in the South African Subregion.

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 WHEELER, W. M., 1922. Ants of the Belgian Congo. *Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist.* **45**: 224-31.