

Key to *Stenamma* workers

Workers of the *Stenamma* genus can easily be distinguished from other myrmecines (ants with both a petiole and post-petiole) by their small size, slow movement, pin-point eyes and long narrow petiole. Up until the 1990s any *Stenamma* found in the British Isles were recorded as *westwoodii* or, often, under the misspelling westwoodi. In fact there are two species of *Stenamma* to be found in the British Isles and the far more common is *S. debile* with *S. westwoodii sens. str.* being much less frequently encountered. The surest way to determine these species is by comparison to known correctly determined specimens. I hope that these photographs may substitute for actual specimens and that used in conjunction with the notes may give you confidence in reliably determining between these two very similar species.

Stenamma workers

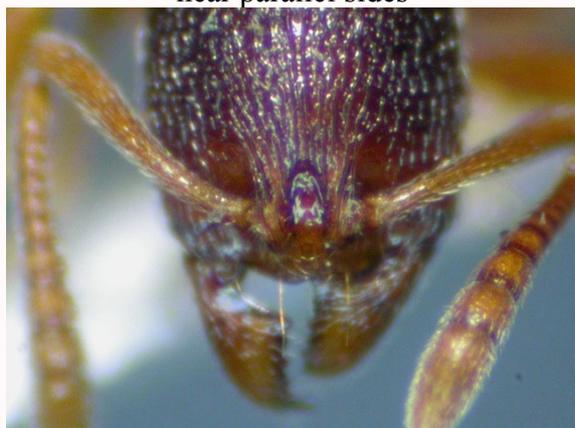
In dorsal view, the front of the peduncle of petiole with distinct nodes at sides



In dorsal view, peduncle without distinct nodes



Narrow smooth area between antennae with near parallel sides



Narrow smooth area between antennae not parallel but with sides slightly converging towards a slight constriction towards the middle



Stenamma debile

Stenamma westwoodii

I wish to thank Barry Bolton for drawing my attention to the peduncle feature and to Simon Hoy for providing a specimen of true *westwoodii*. Photographs are my own work.

updated by Mike Fox October 2009