

ON A COLLECTION OF ANTS (FORMICIDAE) FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS.

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Our knowledge of the ants of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is very meagre. Forel described a few forms and recorded several others from these islands in 1903¹ while casual references are also included by Bingham² and Emery³.

The collection on which this report is based was made by the late Dr. N. Annandale in the Southern Andamans during November and December 1923 and, through the courtesy of Dr. B. N. Chopra, we have had the opportunity of working out this small collection. We have only given a list of the well-known species and have not attempted to describe the seemingly new species for want of sufficient material. In all, specimens of thirteen widely distributed genera are recorded which comprise fifteen species.

Owing to the paucity of the material at our disposal it is not possible for us to discuss the ant-fauna as a whole nor are we able to indicate as to which of the genera and species are endemic in the Andamans.

In conclusion we have to express our best thanks to Dr. B. Prashad for his kindness in going through the paper.

Subfamily PONERINÆ.

Odontoponera transversa (Smith).

1857. *Ponera transversa*, Smith, *Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond.*, II, p. 68.

1900. *Odontoponera transversa*, Forel, *Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, XIII, p. 314.

1903. *Odontoponera transversa*, Bingham, *Faun. Brit. Ind. Hym.*, II, p. 73, fig. 38.

1911. *Odontoponera transversa*, Emery, *Gen. Ins. (Wylsman)*, *Hym.*, p. 60.

This species is spread throughout Indo-Malaysia and extends up to the Philippine Islands. It is represented in the Indian Museum collection by three specimens from Sikkim ; Margherita, Assam.

Two solitary workers were taken on the ridge of Mt. Harriet, ca. 1,000 ft., "singly on path in deep jungle, 30-xi-23."

Diacamma vagans (Smith).

1861. *Ponera vagans*, Smith, *ibid.*, V, p. 103.

1903. *Diacamma vagans*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 81-82, fig. 43.

1903. *Diacamma rugosum* var. *indicum*, Forel, *Rev. Suisse Zool.*, XI, p. 400.

1911. *Diacamma rugosum* var. *indica*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 67.

The distribution of the species is Sikkim ; Bombay ; Orissa ; Bengal ; Lokolot Goyaba, Shaal Bay and Kyd Island, Andamans ; Ceylon. In

¹ Forel, *Rev. Suisse Zool.*, XI, pp. 399-411 (1903).

² Bingham, *Faun. Brit. Ind. Hymenoptera* II (1903).

³ Emery, *Gen. Ins. (Wylsman)*, *Hymenoptera* (1911-12 and 1921-22).

the Indian Museum collection there are specimens from Darjiling district, 1,000—3,000ft., E. Himalayas ; Purneah, Bihar ; Soerabaya, Java.

Five workers were found on the western side of Mt. Harriet at an altitude of 800 ft., "Ants with grub under stone in jungle, xii-23," and two workers and a single winged male at an altitude of 1,100ft. on the same hill, "issuing together from a hole in the ground in the garden, 3-xii-23." The nest of this species and that of *Aphaenogaster beccarii* were found "together under stone in jungle, xii-23."

The colouration of the winged male is yellow while that of its antennae black. Bingham in his "Fauna" volume p. 81 mentions that the male is black in colour, the mandibles, antennae and legs being reddish brown.

Bothroponera rufipes (Jerd.).

1851. *Ponera rufipes*, Jerdon, *Madr. Journ. Litt. Sc.*, XVII, p. 119.
 1857. *Ponera rufipes*, Smith, *op. cit.*, p. 67.
 1858. *Pachycondyla rufipes*, *id.*, *Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus.*, VI, p. 106.
 1889. *Bothroponera rufipes*, Emery, *Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova*, XXVII, p. 495.
 1900. *Ponera (Bothroponera) rufipes*, Forel, *op. cit.*, p. 323.
 1903. *Bothroponera rufipes*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 96-97, fig. 50.
 1911. *Pachycondyla (Bothroponera) rufipes*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 76.

Specimens of this species are recorded as occurring in the Himalayas ; N. Kanara to Malabar, Western India ; the Siwaliks to Assam up to 4,000 ft. ; Burma ; Tenasserim ; Bengal ; Kandy, Ceylon. Individual workers in the collection of the Indian Museum are from the Darjiling district, 1,000—3,000 ft., E. Himalayas, La-ai R., Kalem Valley, Mishmi country and Sibsagar, Assam.

Three workers collected on the ridge of Mt. Harriet, *ca.* 1,000 ft., "singly on path in deep jungle, 30-xi-23" and one worker at an elevation of 900 ft. on the mount itself, "on jungle floor, xi-xii-23."

Subfamily MYRMECINÆ.

Cremastogaster wroughtonii Forel.

1902. *Cremastogaster wroughtonii*, Forel, *Rev. Suisse Zool.*, X, p. 206.
 1902. *Cremastogaster (Oxygyne) wroughtoni*, *id.*, *Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, XIV, pp. 681 and 684.
 1903. *Cremastogaster wroughtoni*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 128, 129, fig. 57.
 1922. *Cremastogaster (Paracrema) wroughtoni*, Emery, *Gen. Ins. (Wytzman)*, *Hym.*, p. 156.

The spread of this species has hitherto been confined to India (proper).

One worker captured on the ridge of Mt. Harriet, *ca.* 1,000 ft. "on path in cleared ground, 30-xi-23."

Phidologiton sp.

Several workers and two soldiers were collected on Mt. Harriet, 1,100 ft. "Small ant. very common in house. The bite is painful and the irritation lasts for some time, 3-xi-23 ; in an empty but imperfectly closed snail-shell in a box on my working table, 4-xii-23."

Tetramorium guineense (Fabr.).

1793. *Formica guineense*, Fabricius, *Ent. Syst.*, II, p. 357.
 1862. *Myrmica guineensis*, Roger, *Berl. Ent. Zeitschr.*, VI, p. 293.
 1862. *Tetramorium guineense*, *Verh. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien.*, XII, p. 740.
 1903. *Tetramorium guineense*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 184-185.
 1922. *Tetramorium guineense*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 278.

Individuals of this species are recorded as being found only in Bombay and N. Kanara, Western India.

Seven workers were taken on Mt. Harriet, "in flowers of pumpkin, 1-xii-23; nest in trunk of plantain-tree under base among dead leaves, 2-xii-23."

Tetramorium sp.

Two workers collected at Ross Island, xii-23.

Aphaenogaster beccarii (Emery).

1887. *Ischnomyrmex beccarii*, Emery, *Ann. Mus. Stor. Nat. Genova*, XXV, p. 456, pl. i, fig., 12.
 1888. *Aphaenogaster (Ischnomyrmex) beccarii*, *id.*, *op. cit.*, p. 532, pl. 9, fig. 4.
 1902. *Stenamamma (Ischnomyrmex) beccarii*, Forel, *op. cit.*, p. 694.
 1903. *Aphaenogaster beccarii*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 271-272, fig. 82.
 1921. *Aphaenogaster (Aphaenogaster) beccarii*, Emery, *Gen. Ins. (Wytzman), Hym.*, p. 64.

The species is distributed in India and Sumatra. The Indian Museum possesses a worker from Paresnath, 4,000-4,400 ft., W Bengal.

Nine workers were taken on Mt. Harriet, 1,100 ft. "at base of epiphytic fern and tree-stump. Small millepede with ants, 30-xii-23." Found with nest of *Diacamma vagans* "together under stone in jungle, xii-23."

Monomorium sagei Forel.

1902. *Monomorium sagei*, Forel, *op. cit.*, p. 211.
 1902. *Monomorium sagei*, *id.*, *op. cit.*, p. 686.
 1903. *Monomorium sagei*, Bingham, *op. cit.* pp. 208-209.
 1922. *Monomorium (Xeromyrmex) sagei*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 177.

The specimens of this species, as previously recorded, were known only from Dharmsala, N. W Himalayas.

Nine females and several workers together with many pupae and larvae were collected on Mt. Harriet, 1,100 ft., "in shells, xii-23."

Subfamily DOLICHODERINAE.

Tapinoma melanocephalum (Fabr.).

1793. *Formica melanocephala*, Fabricius, *op. cit.*, p. 353.
 1851. *Formica nana*, Jerdon, *op. cit.*, p. 125.
 1858. *Myrmica pellucida*, Smith, *op. cit.*, p. 124.
 1895. *Tapinoma melanocephalum*, Forel, *Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, IX, p. 472.
 1903. *Tapinoma melanocephalum*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 30
 1912. *Tapinoma melanocephalum*, Emery, *Gen. Ins. (Wytzman), Hym.*, VI, p. 41.

The species is widely distributed being evidently well-represented in both hemispheres. The Indian Museum collection contains several

examples from Poona, Western India ; Puri, Orissa sea-coast ; Thinganyinaung to Myawadi, 0—900 ft., Lower Burma.

Five workers were obtained from Aberdeen, "under stones in open ground, xii-23."

Subfamily CAMPONOTINÆ.

Oecophylla smaragdina (Fabr.).

1775. *Formica smaragdina*, Fabricius, *Syst. Ent.*, p. 828.

1894. *Oecophylla smaragdina*, Forel, *Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, VIII, p. 400.

1903. *Oecophylla smaragdina*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 311, fig. 93.

This ant is recorded from India, Burma and Ceylon, generally, and also from the Andamans. It has a wide geographical range extending through the Malay Peninsula into New Guinea and Australia. In the collection of the Indian Museum there are individuals from Sikkim ; Dehra Dun, N. W. Himalayas ; Orissa ; Calcutta and environs, Netrakona, Mymensingh district and Rajmahal, Bengal ; Khasi Hills, Garo Hills, Sibsagar and Kobo, 400 ft., Assam ; Port Blair and Ross Island, Andamans.

Three workers were taken on the summit of Mt. Harriet, 1,190 ft., 30-xi-23.

Plagiolepis longipes (Jerd.).

1851. *Formica longipes*, Jerdon, *op. cit.*, p. 122.

1894. *Plagiolepis longipes*, Forel, *op. cit.*, p. 414.

1903. *Plagiolepis longipes*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 320-321, fig. 97.

The species has a widespread distribution in India, excepting the hot arid regions of the N. W. Provinces, Punjab and Central India. It does not appear to be uncommon in Burma and Ceylon. Forel records it from Chatham and Port Blair, Andamans and Indo-China. The Indian Museum possesses several examples from the Darjiling district, E. Himalayas ; Calcutta and environs, Bengal ; Misty Hollow, W. side of Dawna Hills, ca. 2,200 ft., Burma.

Nine workers were captured on Mt. Harriet, ca. 1,000 ft., "in dead log on jungle floor, 30-xi-23."

Prenolepis longicornis (Latr.).

1802. *Formica longicornis*, Latreille, *Hist. Nat. Fourm.*, p. 113.

1894. *Prenolepis longicornis*, Forel, *op. cit.*, pp. 406-407.

1903. *Prenolepis longicornis*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 326-327.

Bingham speaks of this ant as existing "throughout our limits, and introduced and spread over all tropical countries." There are specimens in the Indian Museum collection from Girgaon, Bombay and Poona, Western India ; Puri, Orissa sea-coast ; Calcutta and environs, Bengal ; Allahabad, U. Provs. It seems evident that, from their geographical distribution in India, these ants prefer generally to frequent dry and moist areas.

Two females and three workers were collected at Aberdeen, "under stones in open ground."

***Polyrhachis bicolor* Smith.**

1858. *Polyrhachis bicolor*, Smith, *op. cit.*, p. 65.

1893. *Polyrhachis bicolor*, Forel, *Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, VIII, pp. 26 and 34.

1903. *Polyrhachis bicolor*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 395-396.

Individual workers of this species have been found in Bengal ; Burma ; Molucca and the Philippine Islands. They are represented in the museum collection by specimens from Barrackpore near Calcutta, Bengal.

A single worker was taken at Port Blair.

***Polyrhachis laevissima* Smith.**

1858. *Polyrhachis laevissima*, Smith, *op. cit.*, p. 64, pl. 4, fig. 42.

1867. *Polyrhachis globularia*, Mayr, *Tijdschr. Ent.*, X, p. 41.

1893. *Polyrhachis laevissima*, Forel, *op. cit.*, pp. 21 and 30.

1903. *Polyrhachis laevissima*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 402-403, fig. 137.

The species is known from Orissa ; Bengal ; Assam ; Tenasserim ; Bumila Creek and Kyd Island, Andamans ; Indo-China ; Malacca ; Siam to Java. In the Indian Museum collection there are workers from Poona, Western India ; Calcutta and environs, Bengal ; Sibsagar and Sadiya, Assam.

Two workers were collected from the summit of Mt. Harriet, "in dead log, 1-xii-23."