

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF ANTS (HYMENOPTERA : FORMICIDAE) OF CHANDAKA-DAMPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ORISSA

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INTRODUCTION

Ants have greater degree of adaptability, which has ensured their survival since Oligocene period. They range from pests to predators. Besides this, they have also been utilized as a source of biological control to check the menace of agricultural pests, for example, *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Fab.) against control of citrus fruit, *Solenopsis germinata* (Fab.) on natural enemies of lac insects and *Camponotus sericeus* (Fab.) found very effective in control of cutworms in lawns.

In terrestrial ecosystem, ants biomass and energy consumption is greater than all the vertebrate fauna taken together (Wilson, 1990) and hence, they have got direct impact on terrestrial ecosystem. "Ants can be seen to dominate ecosystems in a way unequated by any other organism. In addition to their sheer biomass, greater degree of mutualistic ant-plant associations have been observed, which ensure the survival of many plant species, and ant mosaics have been noticed in which dominant ant species cannot only affect and control the destruction of non-dominant ant species, but also influence both the species composition and abundance of other arthropods" (LaSalle and Gauld, 1993).

Present work deals with the study of ants, collected from Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary. The entire collection was made by the second author, during his research work on elephants in Chandaka during the period 1995-1999. Ants particularly attracted the attention of the collector while making observation of elephants dung, leaf litters, bark left over by elephants while feeding in the forest area. The ants were found devouring on cow and elephant dungs, carrying undigested food particles from the dung to their nests. While studying the feeding behaviour of elephants, the author noticed how carefully the elephants avoided the ants while eating the twigs and barks of the plants, by forceful shaking of the plant's parts or blowing of air through the nostril of the trunk. The collection was made from various spots, frequently visited by elephants and some other localities of the Sanctuary during tracking for elephants by the second author during his study period.

After thorough literature consultation and enquiry of Official records, it was found that no list of this social insect from the Sanctuary is available till date. Besides this, efforts were also made to make biological observations of these ants while collecting. This is the first attempt by the authors to contribute towards ants fauna of the Sanctuary.

Altogether 29 species under 15 genera spread over 4 subfamilies have been reported in this paper from Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa. All the 29 species are recorded here for the first time from the Sanctuary.

History of work on Indian ants

Rothney (1889, '90, 1903) worked on Indian ants and later on Forel (1885, '86, '90, '92, '93a, '93b, '94, '95, 1900a, 1900b, 1901, 1902a, 1902b, 1903a, 1903b, 1913) contributed comprehensive work on Formicidae of India and Ceylon. Bingham (1903) published his valuable work in *Fauna of British India*, Hymenoptera, Vol. 2, including Burma and Ceylon and gave details about distribution of species included.

Successive workers like Ali (1981), Brown Jr. (1954a, '54b, '54c, '57, '59, '86, '88), Bolton (1977, '95a, '95b), Baroni Urbani (1973, '77a, '77b, '77c), Chapman and Capco (1951), Chhotani and Maity (1970), Collingwood (1970, '82), Dutta and Raychaudhuri (1983), Devi and Singh (1987), Donisthorpe (1930, '33, '42a, '42b, '42c, '43), Gadagkar *et al.* (1993), Ghosh (1999), Imai *et al.* (1984), Jerdon (1851, '54, '65a, '65b), Kugler (1987), Kurian (1955), Karavaiev (1926, '27, '28), Mathew (1980, '83, '84), Mathew and Tiwari (2000), Reddy *et al.* (1981a, '81b), Roonwal (1954, '75), Ramdas *et al.* (1961), Saunders (1842), Smith, F. (1852, '71a, '71b, '73, '75, '78), Smith, M. R. (1949), Sykes (1835), Sheela and Narendran (1997, '98a, '98b), Shivashankar (1985), Sheela, Narendran and Tiwari (2000), Taylor (1965, 68), Tiwari (1977a, '77c, '86a, '86b, '94, '96, '97, '99a, '99b, 2001a, 2001b), Verghese *et al.* (1981), Veeresh *et al.* (1990) and Wilson (1964).

Bingham (1903) recorded 12 species under 10 genera from Orissa. No comprehensive work on ants fauna of Orissa has been done since then, except a few scattered work.

Study area

Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, situated in Khurdha and Cuttack district of Orissa lies between the new capital Bhubaneswar and old capital Cuttack, covering an area of 193.39 sq. km. It lies between 20° 16' 05" to 20° 26' 03" N and 85° 34' 42" to 85° 49' 30" E. It is very close (25 km north west) to the capital city of Bhubaneswar in Orissa and can be approached by road via Khandagiri (Fig. 1).

Topography

The terrain is generally undulating which is broken by small low hills. North-western and South-western portions of the reserve are generally hilly with moderate to steep slopes, whereas

the mid-eastern portion is mostly gentle to moderately sloppy with abrupt steep slopes at places. North-eastern and Central portions are relatively flat with little undulation. The altitude varies and is 42 m at Chandaka, 46 m at Dampara, 100 m at Nuakua and 217 m at Pandari mundia (the highest peak in the reserve) above mean sea level (Mishra and Sarangi, 1984).

Climate

Chandaka has a sub-tropical climate. Temperature, relative humidity and rainfall are the three important parameters that have been recorded from 1995 to 1998.

Temperature

The average maximum temperature recorded was during May, being around 37.1°C in Godibari and around 35.5°C in Kumarkhunti. The maximum temperature recorded was 45.9°C in May, 1998.

The average minimum temperature is around December-January being 14°C in the core area and 16°C in Godibari. The absolute minimum temperature recorded in the core area was 8.5°C in 1997 and 12°C in 1996. The temperature thus varies between 10°C to 45°C.

Humidity

The average relative humidity of the study area is generally very high. The maximum average relative humidity is between 80-90% during July-September. The average minimum relative humidity is around 50-60% during December-February.

Rainfall

The state of Orissa is the point of convergence of monsoon currents of the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Here the monsoon is brought about by the Southwesterly wind, commonly called the SW-monsoon in summer months and to a little extent by northeasterly wind called the NE-monsoon.

The rainy season in the study area generally starts from mid June. The rain bearing SW-monsoon reaches its peak in the month of August. The average rainfall between June to September was recorded to be 40 cm. Northeast rain is also recorded in this area during October-November. Average rainfall per month during this period was 80 cm in 1998.

The average annual rainfall recorded in this area was 97.76 cm, 108 cm, 190.7 cm and 195.7 cm between 1995-1998.

Vegetation

The vegetation of Chandaka is of the semi evergreen type according to Champion and Seth's classification (1968). But due to severe biotic pressure, edaphic factors and relative humidity, the

existing vegetation has lost its original characters (Choudhury, 1975; Panda, 1992; Roy *et al.*, 1992; Biswal, 1993; Swain, 2000). The Sanctuary is presently covered mostly by bushy/shrubby vegetation. Woodlands are present in mostly coppice growth form. Based on species composition, the forest is classified into following types :

- 1) Semi evergreen forest dominated by *Xylia xylocarpa*.
- 2) Dry mixed deciduous forest
- 3) Bamboo brakes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ants were mostly collected by hand picking with fine forceps and with the help of aspirator. They were also collected by sweeping method with the help of insect nets along with other insects from foliage of bushes. Ants were also collected by using bates in the form of sugar granules, jaggery and rotten mutton placed near ants nests.

Specimens were mostly preserved in 70% alcohol in glass vials. Larger specimens were preserved in insect envelopes with preservatives. Observations were made in field where ants were found moving on the soil surface, twigs and foliages and biological notes made that of.

The specimens were relaxed and setting and pinning done in laboratory of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata. The larger ants were directly pinned through the thorax and smaller were mounted on triangular paper boards with the help of water soluble adhesives.

Identification of ants are mainly based on worker caste. During study, mandibles and mouth parts were dissected for specific identification.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Ants belonging to family Formicidae of Order Hymenoptera are widely distributed through out the world, because of its cosmopolitan nature; 9538 species of ants under 11 subfamilies, 59 tribes and 296 genera have been reported till date from the world (Hölldobler and Wilson, 1990), of these altogether 2479 species have been reported from the classical Oriental regions, which includes Oriental and Indo-Australian regions. The splitted species 770 are recorded from Oriental region and 1709 from Indo-Australian region (Bolton, 1995a). Approximately 600 species of ants have been reported from India.

LIST OF TAXA INCORPORATED IN SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family FORMICIDAE

I. Subfamily DORYLINAE Forel

1. Genus *Dorylus* Fabricius, 1793Subgenus *Typhlopone* Westwood1. *Dorylus (Typhlopone) labiatus* Schuckard, 1840Subgenus *Alaopone* Emery, 18812. *Dorylus (Alaopone) orientalis* Westwood, 1835

II. Subfamily PONERINAE Lepeletier

2. Genus *Diacamma* Mayr, 18623. *Diacamma rugosum* (Le Guillou)3. Genus *Leptogenys* Roges, 18614. *Leptogenys processionalis* (Jerdon, 1851)5. *Leptogenys chinensis* Mayr, 18704. Genus *Pachycondyla* Smith F., 18586. *Pachycondyla rufipes* (Jerdon, 1851)7. *Pachycondyla sulcata* (Frauenfeld, 1867)

III. Subfamily PSEUDOMYRMECINAE Emery

5. Genus *Tetraoponera* Smith, 18528. *Tetraoponera allaborans* Walker, 18599. *Tetraoponera rufonigra* (Jerdon, 1851)

IV. Subfamily MYRMICINAE Lepeletier

6. Genus *Pheidole* Westwood, 1841Subgenus *Pheidole* s. str.10. *Pheidole spathifera* Forel, 190211. *Pheidole sulcaticeps* Roger, 1863

7. Genus *Myrmicaria* Saunders, 1841

12. *Myrmicaria brunnea* Saunders, 1841

8. Genus *Crematogaster* Lund, 1831

13. *Crematogaster politula* Forel, 1902
14. *Crematogaster rothneyi* Mayr, 1878

9. Genus *Monomorium* Mayr, 1855

15. *Monomorium floricola* (Jerdon, 1851)
16. *Monomorium latinode* Mayr, 1872
17. *Monomorium scabriceps* (Mayr, 1878)

10. Genus *Solenopsis* Westwood, 1841

18. *Solenopsis geminata* (Fabricius, 1804)

11. Genus *Lophomyrmex* Emery, 1892

19. *Lophomyrmex quadrispinosus* (Jerdon, 1851)

12. Genus *Meranoplus* Smith, 1854

20. *Meranoplus bicolor* (Guérin, 1838)

V. Subfamily FORMICINAE Lepeletier

13. Genus *Oecophylla* Smith, 1861

21. *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Fabricius, 1775)

14. Genus *Paratrechina* Motschoulsky, 1863

22. *Paratrechina longicornis* (Latreille, 1802)

15. Genus *Camponotus* Mayr, 1861

23. *Camponotus angusticollis* (Jerdon, 1851)
24. *Camponotus compressus* (Fabricius, 1787)
25. *Camponotus invidus* Forel, 1802
26. *Camponotus rufoglaucus* (Jerdon, 1851)
27. *Camponotus sericeus* (Fabricius, 1789)

16. Genus *Polyrhachis* Smith, 1858

28. *Polyrhachis dives* Smith, 1857
29. *Polyrhachis illaudata* Walker, 1859

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Subfamily DORYLINAЕ Forel

1. Genus *Dorylus* Fabricius

1793. *Dorylus* Fabricius, *Ent. Syst.*, **2** : 194.

Type-species : *Vespa helvola* ♂ (Linnaeus, 1764) from South Africa.

Subgenus *Typhlopone*

1839. *Typhlopone* Westwood, *Introd. Classif. Ins.*, **2** : 219.

Type species : *Typhlopone fulva* Westwood, 1839 from North Africa.

1. *Dorylus (Typhlopone) labiatus* Shuckard

1840. *Dorylus labiatus* Shuckard, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, **5** : 319, M.

1995. *Dorylus (Typhlopone) labiatus*, Bolton, *A New Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 179.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, 6 workers, Ambakhali, 2.i.1996, 4 workers, Nuakua, 17.vii.1997.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa and whole of continent of India, particularly from Sikkim, Manipur, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi.

Remarks : These ants are golden yellow in colour with strong mandibles and are found hovering on dead animals. They are carnivorous in nature. These specimens were collected near Ambakhali feeding on Lepidopteran larvae.

Subgenus *Alaopone* Emery

1881. *Alaopone* Emery, *Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova*, **16** : 274.

Type species : *Dorylus (Alaopone) orientalis* Westwood, 1835 = (*Alaopone oberthueri* Emery, 1881) from India.

2. *Dorylus (Alaopone) orientalis* Westwood

1835. *Dorylus orientalis* Westwood, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, **3** : 72, Male

1999. *Dorylus (Alaopone) orientalis*, Tiwari, *Memoir, Zool. Surv. India*, **18(4)** : 16

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, 5 workers, at Godibar, 9.ii.1996, 1 worker, Kochilaberna, 11.vii.1997, ex. Banana root.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal. Elsewhere : Burma, China, Malayan Peninsula, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra, Borneo), Nepal, Sri Lanka.

Remarks : This species is commonly known as root eating ant, the workers feed on soft parts of root and the tuberous roots are hollowed out.

Green (1903) also agreed with above vegetation behaviour of the said species, but Mukherjee (1933), doubted this. He studied the worker's mouth parts in detail and found them "better adapted for feeding on animal food than on plants. The sharp pointed bristle, spines and setae on the 1st/2nd maxillae, can well pierce the skin of the victim and draw out the nutritive fluid from the body of their prey, which they suck by their mobile tongue"

3. Genus *Diacamma* Mayr

1862. *Diacamma* Mayr, *Verh. zool-bot. Ges. Wien*, **12** : 718, worker.

Type-species : *Ponera rugosa* Le Guillou, 1841 from Borneo (Indonesia).

3. *Diacamma rugosum* (Le Guillou)

1842. *Ponera rugosa* Le Guillou, *Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr.*, **10** : 318

1995. *Diacamma rugosum*, Bolton, *A new Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 170.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 4 Workers, 1 km from Kochilaberna tower towards Ambakhali, 22.vi.1997; 2 workers near Ambilo tower, 11.ix.1998; 3 exs. from Dahanagadia village, 4.vii.1997.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Elsewhere : Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Phillipines, Vietnam, Taiwan, New Guinea, Batchian Is (Pacific), Nepal.

Remarks : It nests in the soil at the base of trees (Seeson, 1941). In Chandaka, it was collected from mango tree, may be the specimens were ascending on the tree for search of mango fruits. This species is known by a number of subspecies (Bolton, 1995).

4. Genus *Leptogenys* Roger

1861. *Leptogenys* Roger, *Berl. ent. Zeitschr.*, **5** : 41, worker.

Type-species : *Leptogenys falcigera* Roger, 1861 from Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon).

4. *Leptogenys processionalis* (Jerdon)

1851. *Ponera processionalis* Jerdon, Madras, *J. Lit..Sic.*, **17** : 118

1995. *Leptogenys processionalis*, Bolton, *A New Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press., : 233.

1999. *Leptogenys (Lobopelta) ocellifera*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, **18(4)** : 22

Material examined : India: Orissa:, Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : several workers on southeast slopes of Ambilo tower, 30.v.1998; 7 workers at Kodalimundia 28.xii.1998 on leaf litter.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Meghalaya and nearly whole of Peninsular India. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka.

Remarks : The second author while moving near Ambilo tower noticed a long que of ants moving very fast in zig zag manner making a procession of ants, carrying the eggs in their mouth, most probably taking the eggs to some safer place.

Tiwari (1995) reported this species as *Leptogenys (Lobopelta) ocellifera* (Roger, 1861) but Emery (1913) has synonymised this species under *Leptogenys processionalis* (Jerdon) which was supported by Bolton (1995b).

5. *Leptogenys chinensis* Mayr

1870. *Lobopelta chinensis* Mayr, *Verh. zool-bot. Ges. Wein*, 20 : 965.

1995. *Leptogenys chinensis*, Bolton, *A New Genl Cat Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 230

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, 2 workers, near Kheluachua, 16.xi.1997.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, West Bengal, more or less whole India, except drier part of Central India and Western India. Elsewhere : China, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka.

5. Genus *Pachycondyla* Smith

1858. *Pachycondyla* Smith, *Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus.*, 6 : 105.

Type-species : *Formica crassinoda* Latreille, 1802 from Surinam (S. America).

6. *Pachycondyla rufipes* (Jerdon)

1851. *Ponera rufipes* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. Sci.*, 17 : 119, worker

1995. *Pachycondyla rufipes*, Bolton, *A. new. Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 309.

Material examined : India : Orissa, Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, 3 exs, near Godabhangatangaro, 2.i.1997, under wood logs.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Western India, Karnataka, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Myanmar.

Remarks : This ant is a robust ponerine ant and while being picked up for collection, was found to emit a thick white frothy fluid from their mouth, of very offensive nature containing formic acid smell—which seems to be a defensive mechanism.

7. *Pachycondyle sulcata* (Frauenfeld)

1867. *Ponera sulcata* Frauenfeld, *Verh. zool-bot. Ges. Wein*, 17 : 441.

1995. *Pachycondyla sulcata*, Bolton, *A new Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 310.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary, 4 workers, Dampara, 13.viii.1995, from rotten wood.

Distribution : INDIA Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Central and Western India.

Subfamily PSEUDOMYRMECINAE Emery

5. Genus *Tetraponera* Smith

1852 *Tetraponera* Smith, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 9(2) : 44.

Type-species : *Eciton nigrum* Jerdon, 1851 (= *Tetraponera atrata* Smith, 1852) from India.

8. *Tetraponera allaborans* Walker

1859. *Pseudomyrma allaborans* Walker, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 4(3) : 375, Male.

1999. *Tetraponera (Tetraponera) allaborans*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, 18(4) : 34.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 3 workers, Minchinpatna, 21.ix.1998; 2 workers, Nuakua, 21.ix.1998, ex.twigs of bushy plants.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Western India. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia (Sumatra), Kalimantan, China.

Remarks : These ants are black, highly polished and shining with metallic blackish colour and were found moving in scattered forms at bushy plant of *Eupatorium odonatum*. The stings were protruded and situated at the tip of last gaster segment.

9. *Tetraponera rufonigra* (Jerdon)

1851. *Eciton rufonigram* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. Sci.* 17 : 111, Worker.

1999. *Tetraponera (Tetraponera) rufonigra*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India* 18(4) : 35.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 7 workers, Godibaru gate, 9.xii, 1995, ex. Trunk of Sal tree; 6 workers, Chatiani, 11.xi.1997, ex. heaps of twigs of plants left over by elephant.

Distribution INDIA Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya and most widely distributed species in India. Elsewhere : Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), China.

Remarks : This species is most virulent, its sting is most painful and causes considerable inflammation (Bingham, 1903).

Subfamily MYRMICINAE Lepeletier

6. Genus *Pheidole* Westwood

1841. *Pheidole* Westwood, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 6 : 87.

Type-species : *Atta providens* Sykes, 1835 from India.

10. *Pheidole spathifera* Forel

1902. *Pheidole spathifera* Forel, *Rev. Suisse. Zool*, 10 : 168 & 187, soldier, worker, female and male.

1999. *Pheidole (Pheidole) spathifera*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, 18 (4) : 39.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 2 workers, Dholkat village, 11.ii.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Western India (the Nilgiris), Assam, West Bengal. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Myanmar.

11. *Pheidole sulcaticeps* Roger

1863. *Pheidole sulcaticeps* Roger, *Berl. ent. Zeit.*, 7 : 193, Soldier.

1995. *Pheidole sulcaticeps*, Bolton, *New Genl. Cat. Ants world*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 331

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 5 Workers, Bualigarh, 6.vii.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa : West Bengal, North-west provinces and western India. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka

7. Genus *Myrmicaria* Saunders

1841. *Myrmicaria brunnea* Saunders, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, 3 : 57, Male.

Type-species : *Myrmicaria brunnea* Saunders, 1841 from India.

12. *Myrmicaria brunnea* Saunders

1841. *Myrmicaria brunnea* Saunders, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.* 3 : 57, Male.

1999. *Myrmicaria brunnea*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India* 18 (4) : 41-42.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 3 workers, Kumarkhunti tower, 8.vi.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Meghalaya, West Bengal, and throughout India except drier and more desert parts of the country. Elsewhere : Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Indo-China.

8. Genus *Crematogaster* Lund

1831. *Crematogaster* Lund. *Ann. Sci. Nat.*, **23** : 132.

Type-species : *Formica scutellaris* Olivier, 1791 from France.

13. *Crematogaster politula* Forel

1902. *Crematogaster subnuda* Mayr, 1879, race *politula* Forel, *Rev. Suisse Zool.*, **10** : 207.

2000. *Crematogaster politule* Mathew and Tiwari, *State Fauna Series 4, Fauna of Meghalaya Part 7* : 326.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 2 workers, Kodalnundia, 7.iii.1997.

Distribution INDIA : Orissa, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim. Elsewhere : Myanmar.

Remarks : Datta and Raychaudhuri (1983) reported this species as one of the aphidoculous ants from Sikkim.

14. *Crematogaster rothneyi* Mayr

1879. *Crematogaster rothneyi* Mayr, *Verh. zool.- bot. Ges. Wien*, **28** : 681 & 685, Female.

2000. *Crematogaster rothneyi*, Mathew and Tiwari, *State Fauna series 4, Fauna of Meghalaya, Part 7* : 327.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 11 workers, Guptapara, 11.ii.1996.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Sikkim, West Bengal, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

9. Genus *Monomorium* Mayr

1855. *Monomorium* Mayr, *Verb. zool-bot. Ges. Wein*, **5** : 452.

Type-species : *Formica pharaonis* Linnaeus, 1758 (= *Monomorium minutum* Mayr, 1855) from Egypt.

15. *Monomorium floricola* (Jerdon)

1851. *Atta floricola*, *Madras J. Lit. Sci.*, **17** : 107, Worker.

1999. *Monomorium floricola*, Tiwari, *Memoirs. Zool. Surv. India*, **18** (4) : 54.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 8 workers, Ambilo tower, 7.v.1996.

Distribution INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Oceania.

Remarks : This is a common house ant in India and is found damaging food stuffs.

16. *Monomorium latinode* Mayr

1872. *Monomorium latinode* Mayr, *Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova*, **2** : 152, worker.

1999. *Monomorium latinode*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, **18** (4) : 54.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 2 workers, Nuakua, 2.viii.1996; 6 workers, Kheluachua, 11.ix.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and spread throughout India. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia (Borneo), Formosa (Taiwan).

Remarks : Bingham (1903) mentioned its distribution throughout India. However, Ettershank (1966) has restricted the distribution of *latinode* to Borneo only.

17. *Monomorium scabriceps* Mayr

1879. *Holcomyrme scabriceps* Mayr, *Verh. zool-bot. Ges. Wien*, **28** : 672, Worker.

1995. *Monomorium scabriceps*, Bolton, *A New Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 266.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 4 workers, Godibari, 11.ix.1996; 3 workers Baramundia, 7.viii.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, distributed irregularly throughout India from Punjab to Cochin.

Remarks : This is the first record of this species from the state of Orissa.

10. Genus *Solenopsis* Westwood

1841. *Solenopsis* Westwood, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, **6** : 86.

Type-species : *Atta geminata* Fabricius, 1804 from Central America (= *Solenopsis mandibularis* Westwood, 1841).

18. *Solenopsis geminata* (Fabricius)

1804. *Atta geminata* Fabricius, *Syst. Piez.* : 423.

1999. *Solenopsis geminata*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, **18** (4) : 58-59.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 7 workers, Dholkat village, 11.viii.1997; 1 worker, Ambilo tower, 11.viii.1997.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal.

Elsewhere : Spread pretty nearly over the tropics of the two hemispheres.

Remarks : This specimen is collected from resting site of elephants from the soil surface. The elephants were seen blowing air through nostril to remove these ants from the area and this prompted the second author to search for these ants in the resting site.

S. geminata commonly known as “Brown fire ants” has severe sting. It makes its nest on soil surface making tunnel and is reported to be injurious to seedlings, buds and leaves. It is reported to be an important enemy of aphids, soft scales, termites, bed bugs and moth larvae and caterpillars of *Eublemma amabilia* and *Holococera pulvereana* in the lac godowns (Beeson, 1941).

11. Genus *Lophomyrmex* Emery

1892. *Lophomyrmex* Emery, *Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova*, **22** : 114.

Type-species : *Ocodoma quadrispinosa* Jerdon, 1851 from Malabar, India.

19. *Lophomyrmex quadrispinosus* (Jerdon)

1851. *Ocodoma quadrispinosa* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. Sci.*, **17** : 111.

1999. *Lophomyrmex quadrispinosus*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, **18** (4) : 59.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 2 workers, Godibari, 2.i.1996; 3 workers, Ambakhali, 2.i.1996.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka.

Remarks : Jerdon (1951) reported its feeding behaviour and noted that it feeds on vegetable secretion surrounding the seeds. The author also collected it from flower of *Madhuca indica*.

12. Genus *Meranoplus* Smith, 1853

1853. *Meranoplus* Smith, *Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.*, **2** (2) : 224.

Type-species : *Cryptocerus bicolor* Guérin, 1838 from India.

20. *Meranoplus bicolor* (Guérin)

1844. *Cryptocerus bicolor* Guérin, *Cuv. Iconog. Regn. Anim. Ins.*, **3** : 425, Worker.

2000. *Meranoplus bicolor*, Mathew and Tiwari, *Zool. Surv. India.*, *State Fauna Series 4, Fauna of Meghalaya*, Part 7 : 332.

Material examined : India, Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 7 workers, Ambakhali, 7.viii.1996; 2 workers, Dahanagiria, 11.vii.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and mostly throughout India, except the hot dry plains in the North-Western Provinces and Central India. Elsewhere : Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia (Sumatra) and extending to the Malayan subregion.

Subfamily FORMICINAE Lepeletier

13. Genus *Oecophylla* Smith

1861. *Oecophylla* Smith, *J. Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond. Zool.*, **5** : 101, worker, female.

Type-species : *Formica smaragdina* Fabricius, 1775 from India (= *Formica virescens* Fabricius, 1775).

21. *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Fabricius)

1775. *Formica smaragdina* Fabricius, *Syst. Ent.*, : 828, Female.

1999. *Oecophylla smaragdina*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, **18** (4); 66.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 15 workers, Sanchuria mundia, 11.xi.1998

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal Sikkim, Meghalaya, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and mostly the whole of India, except desert parts. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Myanmar, South China, Malaya, New Guinea, Australia.

Remarks : The specimens of this species were collected from Jackfruit plant. These ants make a specialised type of nest which hang from the twigs of the trees. The nest is made up of leaves which are bound together by fine membranous tissue paper made by the ants by chewing leaves and converting it to synthetic tissue.

The eggs of the species have been found to contain high protein and fat and as such, it is used as a supplement to combat the condition of avitaminosis, particularly in case of marasmus condition. It is widely used as a supplement for protein and fat in tribal people and the eggs are sold in weekly market for this purpose.

14. Genus *Paratrechina* Motschoulsky 1863

1863. *Paratrechina* Motschoulsky, *Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou.*, **36** : 13.

Type-species : *Formica longicornis* Latreille, 1802 from Senegal (= *Paratrechina currens* Motschoulsky, 1863) from Senegal.

22. *Paratrechina longicornis* (Latreille)

1802. *Formica longicornis* Latreille, *Nat. Hist. Fourmis*, 113

2000. *Paratrechina longicornis*, Mathew and Tiwari, *Zool. Surv. India, State Fauna Series 4, Fauna of Meghalaya, part 7* : 349.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 1 worker, Ambilo tower, 2.i.1996; 5 workers, Godabhangatangaro, 7.iv.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and mostly throughout India. Elsewhere : Senegal, Australia, New Caledonia, Sri Lanka.

15. Genus *Camponotus* Mayr

1861. *Camponotus* Mayr. *Europ Formicid.* : 35.

Type-species : *Formica ligniperda* Latreille, 1798 from Europe.

23. *Camponotus compressus* (Fabricius)

1787. *Formica compressa* Fabricius, *Mant. Insect.* 1 : 307, worker

1999. *Camponotus compressus*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, 18 (4) : 69.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 3 workers, Guptapar, 11.xi.1996; 7 workers, Minchinpatna, 11.xi.1996; 3 workers, Goyalbanka, 12.xii.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Manipur, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Island. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Philippines, Borneo, Russia, Arabia and Africa.

Remarks : This is the common black ant, spread all over India, the nests are made in soil and heaps of earth are brought in the form of small files,. Their food is chiefly vegetable secretion and sugar in any form. They bite rather severely but the pain is quite momentary.

24. *Camponotus refoglaucus* (Jerdon)

1851. *Formica rufoglaucus* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. Sci.*, 17 : 124.

1999. *Componotus rufoglaucus*, Tiwari, *Memoirs Zool. Surv. India*, 18 (4) : 70.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 2 workers, Ambilo, 15.xii.1996; 12 Workers, Jhalara, 21.viii.1997.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Delhi, Central India, Assam, Meghalaya, Deccan Plateau. Elsewhere : Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

25. *Camponotus sericeus* (Fabricius)

1798. *Formica sericeus* Fabricius, *Ent. Syst. Suppl.* : 97.

2000. *Camponotus sericeus*, Mathew & Tiwari, *Zool. Surv. India, State fauna series 4, Fauna of Meghalaya, part 7* : 356.

Material examined : India Orissa, Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary 5 workers, Dampara, 7.iii.1998.

Distribution INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Delhi and more or less common throughout India. Elsewhere : Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indo-China, Arabia, Egypt and Tropical Africa.

Remarks : This ant is easily differentiated from other species because of basal portion of the metanotum forming a horizontal and flat surface with rest of the metanotum; usually it is black out certain specimens from Myanmar and Ceylone have been reported having head blood-red, a special

variation in colour pattern. Tiwari (1999) while examining the ant fauna of Delhi came across the species with blood-red head.

26. *Camponotus angusticollis* (Jerdon)

1851. *Formica angusticollis* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. Sci.*, **17** : 120, Worker, Female.

2000. *Camponotus angusticollis*, Mathew and Tiwari, *Zool. Surv. India, State Fauna Series 4, Fauna of Meghalaya, Part 7* : 352

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 2 workers. Dhobabandha, 21.xi.1996; 7 workers, Bualigarh, 7.iii.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Western and Central India, Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Elsewhere : Nepal, Myanmar.

27. *Camponotus invidus* Forel

1892. *Camponotus invidus* Forel, *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **7** : 225 and 234, Worker.

1995. *Camponotus invidus*, Bolton, *A New Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press : 105.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 11 workers, Mincinpatna, 19.v.1997; 8 workers, Dalua, 16.ix.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Sikkim, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

16. Genus *Polyrhachis* Smith

1858. *Polyrhachis* Smith, *J. Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond. Zool.*, **2** : 58.

1862. *Polyrhachis* Mayr, *Verh. zool-bot. Ges. Wien.*, **12** : 677.

Type-species : *Formica bihamata* Drury, 1773 from Madagascar.

28. *Polyrhachis illaudatus* Walker

1859. *Polyrhachis illaudatus*, Walker, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (3) **4** : 373, Worker.

1995. *Polyrhachis illaudata*, Bolton, *A New Genl. Cat. Ants World*, Harvard Univ. Press, : 350.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 3 workers, near Pitagadia tower, 6.vi.1997.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, China, Philippines, Formosa, Gulf of Siam, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes). This distribution is mainly for *P. mayris* synonymised under *P. illaudata*.

Remarks : Donisthorpe (1943) treated *P. mayri* Roger, 1863 as a synonym of *P. illaudata* Walker, 1859 but Collingwood (1970) considered *mayri* as a valid species under *Polyrhachis*. Bolton (1995b) agrees with Donisthorpe (1943). As the authors have no access to type of this species, it is not

possible to give any opinion in this respect. The present specimens come to *mayri* when run through Bingham's key (1903). But as because, the *P. mayri* has been synonymised under *P. illaudata*, the authors treated *P. mayri* as *P. illaudata*.

29. *Polyrhachis dives* Smith

1857. *Polyrhachis dives*, Smith, *J. Proc. Linn. Soc. London Zool*, **2** : 64, Worker.

2000. *Polyrhachis dives*, Mathew and Tiwari, *Zool. Surv. India, State Fauna Series 4, Fauna of of Meghalaya, Part 7*, 361.

Material examined : India : Orissa : Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary : 1 worker, Jhalara, 8.ii.1998; 3 workers, Ambilo, 8.ii.1998.

Distribution : INDIA : Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Eastern India. Elsewhere : Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Indo-China, China, Philippines, Malay, Siam, Formosa, Mainan, Japan, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra, Celebes), New Guinea, Singapore.

SUMMARY

The paper deals with the ants (Hymenoptera : Formicidae) collected from different localities of Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa by second author, during his study period (1995-1998) on the ecology and behaviour of elephants. Altogether 29 species pertaining to 17 genera and 5 subfamilies have been reported. There is no mention of any ant species in forest record of the Sanctuary. Hence, this is the first record of these ants species from this Sanctuary. Besides this, *Monomorium scabriceps* Mayr is the first record from the state of Orissa. A separate map of the Sanctuary showing the localities of collection has been incorporated. Notes on topography and methodology have been provided to delineate the basic concept of the family.

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