

This number has been increased to approximately five-hundred species, of which one hundred and fifty were new.

Many of the Philippine species are related to those on the continent of Asia, as well as to the countries immediately to the south, extending even as far as Australia and into Oceania. In order to identify the Philippine species it has been necessary to become familiar with the literature of the whole Austro-asiatic region. This has led to the compiling of the check list of the ants of this region. It is hoped that it might serve a two-fold purpose: as an aid to further studies of the Philippine species and to stimulate others who might be interested in collecting and studying the ant fauna of the whole south Pacific. The accompanying map showing an area blocked in heavy lines gives the countries and islands covered by this list. The main countries included are Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, China, Tibet, Afghanistan, India, Ceylon, Formosa, Hongkong, the Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Burma, Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Moluccas, Celebes, New Guinea, Java, Sumatra, and adjacent islands, parts of Seychelles, and Mauritius Island, where collections have been made since Wheeler's Check List of Malagasay Region was published in 1922.

The Check list of the ants of Hawaii and of Oceania were published by Wheeler in 1935 and 1936 and it included all the small islands of the Central Pacific: Bismark Archipelago, Solomon Islands, Fiji Islands, Santa Cruz, New Caledonia, Lord Howe, Norfolk and New Zealand, and all the smaller islands off the west coast of California and Mexico.

The source materials for the present check list are the Zoological Record, Genera Insectorum (Emery), original papers or their micro-film reproductions. The greatest source is the 150 papers by Dr. W. M. Wheeler, on the ants of this region, beginning with "The Ants of Japan," in 1906, and closing with "Additions to the Ant-Fauna of Krakatau and Verlaten Islands," in 1937.

The family Formicidae now contains eight sub-families, all of which are represented in the area covered by the present list. The whole consists of 176 genera, 136 subgenera, 2,080 species, 441 subspecies, and 684 varieties. We have arranged the sub-families by tribes, genera, subgenera, species, and subspecies, and varieties, following closely Wheeler's (1922) "The Key to the Genera and Sub-genera of Ants," except that the senior author took the liberty to arrange the material alphabetically under each division so as to facilitate its use by non-specialists.