

# A Key to Ants of the Genus *Cataglyphis* Foerster (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) from Asia

A. G. Radchenko

Institute of Zoology, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kiev, Ukraine

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**Abstract**—A key to 34 Asian species of the genus *Cataglyphis* (excluding some species known from Saudi Arabia) is given.

The genus *Cataglyphis* includes about 100 species, distributed almost exclusively in the S Palaearctic, with only few species found also in arid areas of the Afrotropical Region, India, and Pakistan. Representatives of this genus are mainly large (up to 13 mm long) ants; most of the species are clearly polymorphic, which in some cases makes identification difficult.

Although the supraspecific taxonomy of this genus was developed in detail by Agosti (1990), there exist only 3 rather complete modern keys to species of *Cataglyphis* known from Saudi Arabia (Collingwood, 1985), the Balkans (Agosti and Collingwood, 1987), and Turkmenistan (Dlusskii *et al.*, 1990). The keys provided in earlier publications (Ruzsky, 1905; Santschi, 1929) have become entirely outdated and virtually unusable.

The key provided below uses characters of workers; characters related to sex are specially indicated in all particular cases. The key includes 34 species distributed in Asia (except Saudi Arabia).

Reviews of species and notes on the synonymy will be presented in forthcoming communications.

## KEY TO ASIAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *CATAGLYPHIS*.

### Workers

- 1(4). 3rd maxillary palpomere flattened, with very long, more than 2 times as long as maximum palpomere width, erect hairs (Fig. 1a).
- 2(3). Soldier caste present; in soldiers, mandibles long, saber-shaped, with inner margin bearing no denticles (Fig. 1b). Entire body with very dense, long, silky, appressed pubescence. Head and thorax in workers ochre-colored, in soldiers orange-

red; abdomen in soldiers brown.—N Africa, Israel ..... *C. bombycinus* (Roger).

- 3(2). Soldier caste absent. Appressed pubescence considerably sparser and shorter. Body uniformly yellow or orange-yellow, abdomen in large workers sometimes pale brown.—Israel, Sinai, and Arabia ..... *C. sabulosus* Kugler.
- 4(1). 3rd maxillary palpomere not flattened, with shorter erect hairs more than 1.5 times as long as maximum palpomere width (Fig. 3g, 3i).
- 5(16). Petiole with squamula (Fig. 1d, 1f, 1g); abdomen shining, with smooth or finely sculptured surface.
- 6(7). Body uniformly pale yellow.—Deserts of Dagestan, N Caspian Area, Kazakhstan, Middle Asia, and Afghanistan ..... *C. pallidus* (Mayr).
- 7(6). Head and thorax black to red-brown; abdomen dark brown to black.
- 8(9). Clypeal setae longer than clypeus, attached at some distance from its anterior margin (Fig. 1c). Squamula of petiole thin in lateral view (Fig. 1d). Workers small (3.5–5 mm), with weak polymorphism.—Deserts of Middle Asia, Kazakhstan, and Iran ..... *C. emeryi* (Karawajew).
- 9(8). Clypeal setae shorter than clypeus, attached at its anterior margin (Fig. 1e). Squamula of petiole thicker (Figs. 1f, 1g). Workers larger (3.5–8 mm), polymorphic.
- 10(13). Head distinctly shagreened, dull (at least in larger workers).
- 11(12). Squamula of petiole thick and low (Fig. 1g). Abdominal tergites with very sparse appressed pubescence, distance between hairs clearly ex-