

Review of Korean Dacetini (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae)

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Abstract Most current systematic changes in the tribe Dacetini are applied to the Korean dacetine ants. The tribe Dacetini of Korea include *Strumigenys lewisi*, *Pyramica incerta*, *P. japonica*, *P. mutica*, and *P. hexamerus*. Taxonomic positions are revised, new informations are added, and a full reference list is provided.

Key words *Strumigenys lewisi*, *Pyramica incerta*, *P. japonica*, *P. mutica*, *P. hexamerus*, Dacetini, Formicidae, Korea

INTRODUCTION

The Dacetini is a tribe of ants that are all predators, most of them small, cryptic elements of tropical forest leaf litter and rotten wood (Bolton, 1998). Most of them have highly modified mandibles, being different from the standard triangular mandible common to most other ants. Many have mandibles that are elongate, linear, and with opposing tines at the tip. Others have elongate mandibles like serrated scissors, or have serrated mandibles that are curved ventrally.

For some time, the name Dacetini had been confused with Dacetonini. The tribe name was originated from the genus *Daceton*, but the genitive of daketon (“biter”) would be daketou, so the tribe name must be Dacetini, not Dacetonini. Bolton (2000) also recently found this problem and he resurrected the name Dacetini.

The generic classification of the tribe up to now is the product of a series of revisionary papers mainly by Brown (1948, 1949a, b, c, 1950a, b, 1952b, 1953a, 1954a), Brown and Wilson (1959) and Brown and Carpenter (1979). Recently some major changes on the classification were suggested by Baroni Urbani and de Andrade (1994) based mainly on fossil records, e.g., synonymizing *Pyramica* into *Strumigenys*. However, because of the presence of two different sets of morphological characters in the mandibular-labral complex, and two different modes of operation of the mandibles that correspond to these morphologies (see below for further explanation), Bolton (1998) revived *Pyramica* and recognized