

A NEW GENUS, TWO NEW SPECIES AND A NEW SUBSPECIES OF PHILIPPINE ANTS (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT

Apomyrmex, n. gen., and the following new species and subspecies of Philippine ants respectively are described and illustrated: *Apomyrmex manobo*, *Myrmecaria aphidicola* and *Strumigenys godeffroyi geococci*. Biological notes are also included.

Key words: Formicidae, ants, new genus, new species, new subspecies.

INTRODUCTION

The ants (Family Formicidae) are regarded as a world dominant taxon consisting of over ten thousand species (Wilson, 1963). The known living ants comprise 11 subfamilies, 303 genera, and approximately 8,800 species (Wilson, 1988). It is far below the number that really exists.

Wheeler and Chapman (1925) studied 67 species of Philippine ants some of which were new species belonging to the subfamilies Dorylinae, Cerapachyinae and Ponerinae. More new ants of which five were new species, two new subspecies and two new subgenera were collected and described by Wheeler (1935) from several rich collections of Philippine ants received from Dr. J.W. Williams, Dr. F.X. Williams and Dr. R.C. McGregor. On the other hand, Chapman and Capco (1951) made a checklist of Philippine ants and in 1963, Chapman added new ants from the Philippines belonging to subfamilies Dorylinae, Ponerinae, Myrmecinae and Formicinae. In the Catalogue of Philippine Hymenoptera, Baltazar (1966), listed 307 species and subspecies of ants belonging to 66 genera and seven subfamilies recorded to occur in the Philippines.

The taxonomy of ants in the Philippines as well as in other parts of the world is still unfinished. Majority of the species remains to be discovered and described and need revisionary studies for those species already named.

This paper aims mainly to described new taxa of ants from the Philippines.

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