

Reserve in western Yunnan Province. Up to date, 12 species of the genus are known in China.

Standard measurements and indices are as defined by Taylor (1967): TL-Total length, HL-Head length, HW-Head width, CI-Cephalic index = $HW \times 100 / HL$, SL-Scape length, SI-Scape index = $SL \times 100 / HW$, PW-Pronotum width, AL-Alitrunk length, ED-Maximum diameter of eye, ML-Mandible length, PNL-Petiolar node length, DPW-Dorsal petiole width, PH-Petiole height, PNI-Petiolar node index = $DPW \times 100 / PW$, LPI-Lateral petiolar index = $PNL \times 100 / PH$. All measurements are expressed in millimeters.

The type specimens are deposited in the Insect Collection, Southwest Forestry College.

Genus *Ponera* Latreille

Ponera Latreille, 1804, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat.*, 24: 179. Type-species: *Formica coarctata* Latreille, by subsequent designation of Westwood, 1840:83.

Key to Chinese species of *Ponera* based on worker caste

1. In dorsal view, anterior and lateral borders of petiolar node not formed a single arch, the two borders separated by a roundly prominent corner 2
 In dorsal view, anterior and lateral borders of petiolar node formed a single arch, the two borders not separated by a roundly prominent corner 5
2. In profile view, petiolar node rectangular, with anterior and posterior faces parallel 3
 In profile view, petiolar node trapezoid, with anterior and posterior faces not parallel 4
3. Anterior margin of clypeus with a distinct blunt median tooth. Apex of scape surpassed occipital corner by about 1/12 of its length. Subpetiolar process with a large posteroventral tooth (Figs. 1~3) (China; Taiwan Province) *P. alisana* Terayama
 Anterior margin of clypeus without a median tooth. Apex of scape failed to reach occipital corner by about 1/10 of its length. Subpetiolar process without posteroventral tooth (Figs. 4~6) (China; Yunnan Province) *P. nangongshana* Xu
4. Head distinctly narrowed forward. Anterior margin of clypeus with a weak median tooth. Subpetiolar process with large fenestra and a large posteroventral tooth (Figs. 7~9) (China; Taiwan Province) *P. chiponensis* Terayama
 Head not distinctly narrowed forward. Anterior margin of clypeus without a median tooth. Subpetiolar process with small fenestra and a minute posteroventral tooth (Figs. 10~12) (China; Yunnan Province) *P. baka* Xu
5. In dorsal view, petiolar node very thick, roughly triangular, length / width much more than 1/2 (Figs. 13~15) (China; Yunnan Province) *P. xantha*, sp. nov.
 In dorsal view, petiolar node relatively thin, roughly semicircular or crescent, length / width equal to or less than 1/2 6
6. Mandible with 5 subequal large teeth (Figs. 16~18) (China; Yunnan Province) ... *P. pentodontos* Xu
 Mandible with 3 enlarged apical teeth followed by a row of small to minute denticles 7
7. In profile view, posteroventral border of subpetiolar process without acute tooth, at most bluntly angled 8
 In profile view, posteroventral border of subpetiolar process with an acute tooth 9
8. Head much longer than broad, CI 80. Anterior margin of clypeus bluntly angled. In profile view, petiolar node with anterodorsal corner as high as posterodorsal corner. In dorsal view, petiolar node semicircular, with posterior border straight (Figs. 19~21) (China; Yunnan Province)
 *P. bawana*, sp. nov.