

A SYSTEMATIC STUDY ON THE ANT GENUS *AMBLYOPONE* ERICHSON FROM CHINA (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

XU Zheng-Hui

(Faculty of Resources, Southwest Forestry College, Kunming, Yunnan 650224, China)

Abstract The Chinese species of the ant genus *Amblyopone* Erichson are treated. Two new species are described from Yunnan Province. Seven species of the genus are known in China to date: *A. bruni* (Forel) and *A. sakaii* Terayama from Taiwan Province; *A. silvestrii* (Wheeler) from Taiwan and Zhejiang Provinces; *A. rothneyi* Forel from Macao; *A. rubiginosa* Wu et Wang from Hunan Province; *A. triloba* sp. nov. and *A. crenata* sp. nov. from Yunnan Province. A key based on worker caste is provided for the 13 species known in East and South Asia.

Key words Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Amblyopone*, Systematics, China.

The ant genus *Amblyopone* Erichson is distributed in the world tropics and temperate zones. According to Bolton (1995), 62 species were recorded in the world. Brown (1960) had a revision on the genus and more than 30 species were treated. Baroni Urbani (1978) reported 6 species of the Mediterranean region. The Philippine species were described by Wheeler *et al.* (1925). The Melanesian species were treated by Taylor (1978).

In East and South Asia, Emery (1895) firstly recorded *A. feae* in Burma. Forel (1900) described *A. bellii* and *A. rothneyi* from India. Later, Baroni Urbani (1978) recorded another Indian species, *A. pertinax*. Wheeler (1928) reported the first Japanese species *A. silvestrii*. In 1987, Terayama described the second species, *A. fulvida*, from Japan. Karavaiev (1935) described *A. amblyops* and *A. quadrata* from Vietnam.

Forel (1912) described the first Chinese species, *A. bruni*, from Taiwan Province. Wheeler (1930-1931) recorded *A. rothneyi* Forel in Macao. In 1989, Terayama reported *A. silvestrii* in Taiwan Province for the first time and described another Chinese species, *A. sakaii*, from the province. Wu *et al.* (1992) described *A. rubiginosa* from Hunan Province. Recently, Tang *et al.* (1995) reported the distribution of *A. silvestrii* in China mainland. In this study, 2 new species of *Amblyopone*, *A. triloba* sp. nov. and *A. crenata* sp. nov., are described from Gaoligong Mountain Nature Reserve and Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve of Yunnan Province respectively. Up to now, 7 species of the genus are known in China.

Standard measurements and indices are as defined by Taylor (1967) and Taylor (1978): 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, DPW-Dorsal petiole width, DPL-Dorsal petiole length, PH-Petiole height. All measurements are expressed in millimeters.

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

This study is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 39500118) and the Applied and Basic Research Foundation of Yunnan Province (No. 97C006G).

Received 12 Feb. 2001, accepted 1 June 2001.