

A Systematic Study on the Ant Genus *Ponera* Latreille (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of China

XU Zheng-hui

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

Abstract: Eight species of the ant genus *Ponera* Latreille are recorded in China, among them 5 new species are discovered and described from Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve of Yunnan Province; *P. sinensis* Wheeler distributed in Hong Kong; *P. alisana* Terayama and *P. chiponensis* Terayama distributed in Taiwan Province; *P. pentadontos*, sp. nov., *P. menglana*, sp. nov., *P. nangongshana*, sp. nov., *P. longlina*, sp. nov., and *P. baka*, sp. nov. distributed in Yunnan Province. A key based on worker caste is provided for the 8 species. The type specimens are deposited in the Insect Collection, Southwest Forestry College, Kunming, Yunnan, China.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Ponera*, Systematics, China

CLC number: Q969.554.2 **Document code:** A

Article ID: 1000-7482(2001)01-0051-10

The ant genus *Ponera* Latreille is distributed in Holarctic, Oriental, Indo-Australian and Australasian regions. According to Bolton (1995), 37 valid species of the genus were recorded in the world. Twenty-seven species were known in East Asia and Southeast Asia. Taylor (1967) had a monographic revision of the genus, 28 living and 1 extinct species were treated.

Wheeler (1928) firstly described 2 species of *Ponera* in China; *P. sinensis* from Hong Kong and *P. excoecata* from Taipo, but the latter was moved to *Hypoponera* Santschi by Ogata in 1987. Terayama (1986) recorded 2 species of *Ponera* from Taiwan Province, i. e. *P. alisana* and *P. chiponensis*. Xu et al. (1998) reported the distribution of *P. sinensis* in Yunnan Province. But the species, identified by Xu et al. as *P. sinensis* by mistake, should be a new species, i. e. *P. menglana*, sp. nov. In this study, 5 new species are discovered and described from Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve of Yunnan Province. Up to date, 8 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,

Received date: 2000-03-15

Foundation item: This study is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (39500118) and the Applied and Basic Research Foundation of Yunnan Province (95C067Q)