

**A NEW SPECIES OF THE ANT GENUS *DILOBOCONDYLA*  
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) FROM INDIA,  
WITH NOTES ON ITS NESTING BEHAVIOUR**

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**ABSTRACT.** A new species of *Dilobocondyla*, viz., *D. bangalorica*, sp. nov. is described from India. The worker, queen, male and larvae are described, along with notes on nesting behaviour. The genus *Dilobocondyla* is reviewed and 12 species are recognised: *D. bangalorica*, sp. nov., *D. borneensis* Wheeler, *D. cataulacoidea* (Stitz), *D. chapmani* Wheeler, *D. didita* (Walker), *D. fouqueti* Santschi, *D. fulva* Viehmeyer, *D. karnyi* Wheeler, *D. rufobrunnea* Wheeler, *D. sebesiana* Wheeler, *D. selebensis* (Emery), and *D. simalurana* Forel.

Key words: *Dilobocondyla bangalorica*, Myrmicinae, new species, India, nesting habits.

### Introduction

*Dilobocondyla* Santschi (1910) with *Atopomyrmex selebensis* Emery (1898) as the type species, is a small genus of myrmicine ants belonging to the tribe Formicoxenini. It is known by 9 species and 2 subspecies from the Indo-Australian Region (Bolton, 1995). A new species, *D. bangalorica* is here described from India for the first time.

Early taxonomic works on the genus are by Walker (1859), Emery (1898), Stitz (1911), Forel (1915), Viehmeyer (1916), Wheeler (1916, 1924), Donisthorpe (1932, 1935), Taylor (1991), and Wang & Wu (1992). Sunil et al. (1997) recorded the genus *Dilobocondyla* from Bangalore for the first time.

Wheeler (1924) wrote, "All the species of *Dilobocondyla* seem to be rare and very local ants and are therefore known mostly from single specimens. Like the species of the allied genus *Podomyrma* they nest as rather small colonies in the wood of living trees." In his paper he gave a key to the species and subspecies of the genus based on workers and gynes, then known.

### Materials and Methods

A few *Dilobocondyla* workers were collected on 15 July 2003 from *Plumeria alba* L. (Apocynaceae) tree from the Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore (13°01' N 77°34'E). A worker ant was traced to its nest, a cavity in a dead twig of *P. alba* tree, and later the whole colony was excavated and brought to the laboratory. A thorough survey to study the nesting habits of *D. bangalorica*, sp. nov. was made (May-July, 2004) in Cubbon park and Lalbagh Botanical gardens in Bangalore. A few more nests were found during this survey and three of them were collected on 7 July 2004, to study the colony structure of *D. bangalorica*. Various places in Masinagudi, (Western Ghats), Coorg and Mananthavady (Wayanad district, Kerala) were also surveyed, from May 2004-March 2005, to understand the distribution of *D. bangalorica*, sp. nov. I could not notice the nest of *D. bangalorica* on any other trees and in any other places surveyed.

The holotype is deposited in the Insect Museum at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Paratypes will be deposited in the