

The Army Ant Genus *Aenictus* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Thailand and Viet Nam, with Descriptions of Three New Species

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Abstract. Three new species of the ant genus *Aenictus*, *A. changmaianus*, *A. nishimurai*, and *A. thailandianus*, are described and illustrated from Thailand. *A. dentatus* is recorded for the first time from Viet Nam.

The genus *Aenictus* Schuckard, belonging to the subfamily Aenictinae, is mainly distributed in the Ethiopian, Oriental and Australian Regions and represented by 106 species (Bolton, 1990). This genus is distinguished from the other ant genera in workers by the following characters: 1) pedicel consisting of two segments; 2) fused tergite and sternite of postpetiole and 1st gastral segment; 3) spiracles of postpetiole situated behind the midlength; 4) postsclerites of 1st gastral segment constricted anteriorly, forming a narrow neck behind the articulatory presclerites.

Only two species, *A. binghami* Forel and *A. sagei* Forel, have been recorded from Thailand (Wheeler, 1927; Wilson, 1964) and nothing has been known for the record of the genus from Viet Nam.

Recently we have examined specimens of the genus from Thailand and Viet Nam. As a result, we recognized five species, of which three are new to science and one is newly recorded from Viet Nam. In this paper these three new and one newly recorded species of the genus *Aenictus* are added to the army ant fauna of Indo-China.

Before going further, we thank Mr. Masatoshi Nishimura (Tokyo) for his kind help in collecting the material.

Measurements, indices and special terms used in this paper follow in Wilson (1964).

Aenictus binghami Forel

Aenictus Binghamiri [sic.] Forel, 1900, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., 44: 76.

Aenictus binghami; Forel, 1901, Jour. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc., 13: 465, 474. Bingham, 1903.

Fauna of British India: 19. Wilson, 1964, Pacif. Ins., 6: 450.

Material examined. 3 workers, 8-IX-1989, Phrao, Chang Mai Prov., Thailand, M. Nishimura leg.

Distribution. India, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand.

Aenictus changmaianus sp. nov.

(Figs. 2-4)

Holotype worker. Head length (HL) 0.41 mm; head width (HW) 0.38 mm; scape length (SL) 0.20 mm; cephalic index (CI: $HW \times 100/HL$) 91; scape index (SI: $SL \times 100/HW$) 53; Weber's length of mesosoma (WL) 0.58 mm; dorsal mesosoma width (DMW) 0.25 mm; petiolar node length (PNL) 0.15 mm; petiole height (PH) 0.19 mm; dorsal petiole width (DPW) 0.11 mm; total length (TL) 1.5 mm.

Head rectangular, as long as broad, with almost parallel sides and weakly concave occipital border in frontal view. Mandibles narrow, with a large apical tooth followed by 5 teeth. Anterior border of clypeus weakly convex. Antennae 10-segmented; scape short and incrassate, about 1/2 of head length; 2nd segment longer than broad; 3rd to 9th segments each broader than long; terminal segment $2.1 \times$ as long as broad.

Mesosoma in profile straight dorsally, propodeal junction obtusely angulate. Seen from side, petiole well convex, not forming anterodorsal corner. Subpetiolar process large, rectangular; anterior and posterior corners each acutely angulate. Postpetiole higher than long, dorsal border well convex in lateral view. Femora and tibiae each