

## Additions to the Ant Fauna of Yemen (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

by

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**Abstract.** An account is given of ant species recently collected in Yemen during 1998-2000, using several different trapping methods. Seven genera and 20 species are added to the Yemeni ant fauna. The genera *Aenictus*, *Odontomachus*, *Oligomyrmex* and *Axinidris* are recorded for the first time from the Arabian Peninsula. New species for the Arabian fauna include *Odontomachus troglodytes* SANTSCHI, *Leptothorax megalops* HAMMAN & KLEMM, *Monomorium cryptobium* (SANTSCHI), *Oligomyrmex arabicus* sp.n., *Camponotus mayri* FOREL, *Camponotus spissinodis* FOREL and *Paratrechina vividula* NYLANDER.

Key words. Ants, Yemen, Arabia, faunistics, taxonomy, new species.

### 1. Introduction

The Arabian Peninsula is very rich in ant species. A total number of almost 300 species of ants have so far been recorded from Arabia (COLLINGWOOD 1985, COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996, COLLINGWOOD et. al. 1997), 129 of which were found in Yemen.

From 1998 to 2000 the junior author, assisted by Yemeni colleagues, operated Malaise-traps and light-traps at several localities in Yemen. Ants collected from those traps, as well as some others collected from litter samples and in pitfall-traps, were sent to the senior author for identification.

In the samples, several genera and species not before recorded from Yemen were found. These are listed here. In addition, a new species of *Oligomyrmex* was recognised and is described below. Records of other species are also included.

The types of the new species will be deposited in the Museum of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK; the other material is in the senior author's collection.

### 2. Records

#### Subfamily Aenictinae

##### *Aenictus* sp.

Worker, Khamis Bani Sa'd, 27.VII.199, in leaf litter in banana plantation, leg. VAN HARTEN; workers, Lahj, VI-VII.1998, X.1999, in Malaise-trap, leg. VAN HARTEN & SALLAM.

This genus was represented by small pale yellow workers, which could not be identified to species. Length 2.8 mm, head length 0.6 mm, head with 0.5 mm, scape length 0.31 mm. The head is broadly emarginate; the thick scape has several suberect hairs; the clypeal border is crenulate. There are a few subdecumbent hairs on all body surfaces. The sting is short and horizontal. Colour uniformly shining yellow.

This is the first record of the subfamily and the genus from the Arabian Peninsula.

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