

Two new species of the *Pyramica gundlachi*-group from Ecuador (Hymenoptera Formicidae)***

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Abstract

Pyramica osellai n. sp. and *P. heterodonta* n. sp. from Ecuador are here described and assigned to the *Pyramica gundlachi*-group because of their long mandibles, and to the *P. gundlachi*-complex because of their long trigger hairs, the presence of just 2 intercalary denticles between apical mandibular teeth and absence of a large preapical denticle around the midlength of each mandible. Both new species differ from other members of the complex for their preapical mandibular dentition and some minor characters and may form a separate species cluster.

Key words: ants, *Pyramica*, Dacetini, Neotropics, taxonomy.

Resumen

Se describen *Pyramica osellai* n. sp. y *P. heterodonta* n. sp. de Ecuador. Ambas especies son asignadas al grupo-*Pyramica gundlachi*, por sus largas mandíbulas, y al complejo-*P. gundlachi* por sus largos pelos de alarma, la presencia sólo de 2 denticulos intercalares entre los dientes apicales mandibulares y la ausencia de un ancho denticulo preapical cerca de la zona media de cada mandíbula. Estos dos nuevos táxones difieren de otras especies del complejo por su dentición preapical mandibular y algunos otros caracteres de menor importancia y pueden formar un grupo de especies independientes.

Palabras clave: hormigas, *Pyramica*, Dacetini, Neotropical, taxonomía.

Introduction

In 2006 one of us (AS) participated in a scientific expedition to Ecuador, organized by WBA (World Biodiversity Association, non-profit organization) in collaboration with prof. Giovanni Onore ("Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador"), where some ant material was collected. Among those specimens there were some interesting ones, including two still undescribed species of the genus *Pyramica* with long mandibles and belonging in the *gundlachi*-group as defined by Bolton (2000) in his recent worldwide revision of Dacetini.

Materials and methods

Measurements and indices are as in Bolton (2000):

Total length (TL). The length of the outstretched specimen from the mandibular apex to the gastral tip.

Head length (HL). In full face view, excluding the mandibles, from the occipital border to the clypeal margin. In case of concave occiput and/or clypeus, it is taken from a line tangent to the most protruding portions of occiput and/or clypeus.

Head width (HW). The maximum head width in full face view.

Cephalic index (CI). $HW \times 100 / HL$

Mandibular length (ML). In full face view with fully closed mandibles, from the mandibular apex to the clypeal margin.

Mandibular index (MI). $ML \times 100 / HL$.

Scape length (SL). Excluding the basal condylar bulb and "neck".

Scape index (SI). $SL \times 100 / HW$.

Pronotal width (PW). The maximum pronotal width in dorsal view.

Alitrunk length (AL). Weber's length of the alitrunk: in profile from the anteriormost point where pronotal convexity meets the cervical shield to the posteriormost angle of the metapleuron.

All measurements were taken by means of a Leica 9.5 stereomicroscope with an ocular graticule and a "carrier AX", which allows to work on a single optic path and a fully perpendicular view in order to obtain more precise data.

Photographs were taken from uncoated specimens by means of a SEM Jeol JSM 5610-LV.

Depositories

ASPC: Antonio Scupola personal collection.

MSNM: Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano, Italy.

MSNV: Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Verona, Italy.

QCAZ: Museo de Zoología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador.

Pyramica osellai n. sp.

(figs. 1-3)

Holotype worker. TL 2.5, HW 0.45, HL 0.60, CI 75, ML 0.38, MI 63, SL 0.35, SI 78, PW 0.30, AL 0.65.

Mandibles relatively long and narrow with several preapical teeth and denticles: 7 on the left and 5 on the right; the right mandible lacks two of the smallest denticles. The distalmost preapical tooth is very close