

## Introduction of seven new species of ants (Hym., Formicidae) from Iran

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During the survey on the mutualistic relationships between the Mealy Bug and Ants in Khuzestan province in 1997-1998, we collected some specimens of ants and identified them by using Light Microscop and morphometric methods. Out of 21 species seven ones belonging to two subfamilies Formicinae and Myrmicinae are reporting for the first time from Iran. These species belong to five tribes, Camponotini, Lasiini, Pheidolini, Solenopsidini, Crematogasterini and six genera in which two of them are known as *Monomorium* Mayr and *Aphaenogaster* Mayr are new too. All of the determined samples are verified by Prof. Collingwood are as follow:

*Camponotus oasis* Forel, 1890; *Paratrechina flavipes* (Smith, 1874); *Messor rufotestaceus* (Forster, 1850); *Monomorium destructor* (Jerdon, 1851); *Monomorium abeillei* Andr e, 1881; *Aphaenogaster syriacus* (Emery, 1908); *Crematogaster antaris* Forel, 1884.

Most of the species are distributed in the Middle East and Central Asia except for *Crematogaster antaris* and *Camponotus oasis* which belong to North Africa. These two species have already recorded by Collingwood in 1985 from Saudi Arabia.