

full-face view, measured immediately in front of the eyes); CI = Cephalic index ($HW \times 100/HL$); SL = Scape length (length of the antennal scape, excluding the condyle); SI = Scape index ($SL \times 100/HW$); PW = Pronotal width (greatest width of the pronotal dorsum across the humeri in species without teeth); MTL = Metathoracic tibial length (maximum measurable length of the tibia of the hind leg). All measurements were taken using a Zeiss (Oberkochen) SR stereomicroscope at 20 \times and 32 \times magnifications with an eyepiece graticule calibrated against a stage micrometer. All measurements are expressed in millimetres (mm).

Abbreviations used for specimen data: acc. – accession/s; m – male/s; Prov. – Province; q – queen/s; w – worker/s.

Abbreviations for institutions (with names of cooperating curators): ANIC – Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO Entomology, Canberra, ACT, Australia (Dr S. O. Shattuck); BMNH – The Natural History Museum, London, UK (S. Ryder); ITBC – Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, E. Malaysia (Dr Bakhtiar E. Y.); KFBG – Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong SAR, China (Dr J. R. Fellowes); MCZC – Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA (Dr S. P. Cover); NUM – National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Dr M. Pfeiffer); OXUM – Hope Entomological Collections, University Museum, Oxford, UK (Dr D. Mann); QMBA – Queensland Museum, Brisbane, QLD, Australia (Dr C. J. Burwell); RIFP – Research Institute of Forest Protection of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China; UUUG – University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany (H. P. Katzmann).

SYSTEMATICS

Genus *Polyrhachis* Fr. Smith, 1857

Polyrhachis Fr. Smith, 1857: 58. Type species: *Formica bihamata* Drury, 1773, by original designation.

Subgenus *Campomyrma* Wheeler, 1911

Campomyrma Wheeler, 1911: 860 (as subgenus of *Myrma* Billberg, 1820 = *Polyrhachis* Fr. Smith, 1857). Type species: *Polyrhachis clypeata* Mayr,

1862 (junior synonym of *Polyrhachis exercita* Walker, 1859), by original designation.

Polyrhachis xiphias species-group

DIAGNOSIS

WORKER

Medium-sized ants (HL 1.50-1.81) with characteristics of the genus. Mandibles with 5 teeth, bases smooth or finely striate. Anterior clypeal margin arcuate, medially truncate; clypeus with more-or-less distinct median carina. Frontal carinae rather flat with relatively wide central area. Eyes flat (as in *P. shixingensis*), only weakly convex (as in *P. hashimotoi*), or convex (as in *P. xiphias*). Pronotum in dorsal view with lateral margins rounded, without distinct humeral angles; propodeal dorsum with lateral margins subparallel or only weakly divergent (as in *P. xiphias*), extending posteriorly and terminating in relatively long, dorsally or somewhat dorsomedially flattened spines; inner margins of spines continuous medially, forming an inverted 'U'-shaped ridge that divides propodeal dorsum from declivity. Petiole armed with posteriorly-directed, subparallel (as in *P. hashimotoi* and *P. shixingensis*), or divergent (as in *P. xiphias*) more-or-less horizontal spines. Head, mesosoma and petiole mostly finely reticulate-punctate, gaster smooth and polished. Closely appressed pubescence very sporadically distributed over sides of body and gaster, virtually absent from dorsa of head and mesosoma. A few, medium length, semierect hairs on front of head, coxae, and venter and apex of gaster. Body black, appendages light to medium reddish-brown.

QUEEN

Closely similar to worker, but distinctly larger (HL >2.25 in queens versus <1.81 in workers), with characters identifying full sexuality, including three ocelli, full thoracic structure and wings). Sculpturation, pilosity and colour essentially as in worker.

Males are known only of *P. shixingensis*, but their diagnosis is beyond the scope of this paper. Immature stages unknown.