

Five new species of *Dilobocondyla* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) with a revised key to the known species

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ABSTRACT. Five new species of *Dilobocondyla* are described. *Dilobocondyla gasteroreticulatus* sp. nov. is reported from India based on worker and female castes. *Dilobocondyla eguchii* sp. nov. and *D. propotriangulatus* sp. nov. are reported from Vietnam, *D. yamanei* sp. nov. from Malaysia and *D. gaoyureni* from China based on worker caste only. *Dilobocondyla fouqueti* Santschi is redescribed, with reports of male and female castes. A revised key to the genus is also provided. With the addition of these five new species, the genus is now represented by 15 species and two subspecies globally.

Keywords: *Dilobocondyla*, new species, revised key, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, Guangdong.

INTRODUCTION

Genus *Dilobocondyla* Santschi, which belongs to tribe Formicoxenini, is a small genus of the subfamily Myrmicinae. It is represented by ten species and two subspecies, from the Oriental and Indo-Australian regions (Bolton 2011). All species of this genus seem to be rare and most are represented by a single specimen only. A key to the known species was provided by Wheeler (1924) based on workers and gynes. Contributions to this genus are by Walker (1859), Emery (1898), Stitz (1911), Forel (1911, 1915), Viehmeyer (1914, 1916), Wheeler (1916, 1924, 1935), Donisthorpe (1932), Taylor (1991), Wang and Wu (1992) and Varghese (2006).

In the present study, five new species of this genus are described. *Dilobocondyla gasteroreticulatus* sp. nov. is reported from the Shivalik range of the Northwest Himalayas. *Dilobocondyla eguchii* sp. nov. and *D. propotriangulatus* sp. nov. are reported from Vietnam, *D. yamanei* sp. nov. from Malaysia and *D. gaoyureni* from China, based on worker caste only. These five new species are quite distinct in the worker caste from the already reported

species. A revised key to all the known species of *Dilobocondyla* is also provided herewith.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The digital images of these species were prepared on a Nikon SMZ-1500 stereo zoom microscope using Auto-Montage software. Later, images were cleaned as needed, using Adobe Photoshop CS5.

Type material of *D. gasteroreticulatus* and *D. yamanei* is currently housed in PUPAC (Punjabi University Patiala Ant Collection), Patiala, India. Two paratypes of *Dilobocondyla gasteroreticulatus* will be deposited in NHM (Natural History Museum, London), UK. Type material of *D. eguchii* and *D. propotriangulatus* will be deposited in VNMN (Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Hanoi) and that of *D. gaoyureni* will be deposited in KFBG (Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Hong Kong).