



The *Aenictus ceylonicus* species group (Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Aenictinae) from Southeast Asia

Weeyawat Jaitrong^{1,†}, Seiki Yamane^{2,‡}

1 Natural History Museum, National Science Museum, Technopolis, Khlong 5, Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani, 12120 Thailand **2** Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Kagoshima University, Kagoshima, 890-0065 Japan

† <urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:E456F06F-486F-4BD5-AEE6-6DCA639C3E27>

‡ <urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:C20D11CC-8F51-4D35-A1F8-D01D9536934F>

Corresponding author: Weeyawat Jaitrong (polyrhachis@yahoo.com)

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Abstract

The genus *Aenictus* is a diverse group of army ants in the Old World tropics and subtropics. The Southeast Asian species of the *Aenictus ceylonicus* group are revised to include twenty-three species (4 named and 19 new species): *Aenictus appressipilosus* sp. n., *A. baliensis* sp. n., *A. brevipodus* sp. n., *A. concavus* sp. n., *A. cylindripetiolus* sp. n., *A. eguchii* sp. n., *A. formosensis* Forel, 1913 stat. n., *A. fuchuanensis* Zhou, 2001, *A. goniocippus* sp. n., *A. itoi* sp. n., *A. jawadwipa* sp. n., *A. khaoyaiensis* sp. n., *A. lifuiae* Terayama, 1984, *A. longicephalus* sp. n., *A. maneerati* sp. n., *A. minipetioli* sp. n., *A. pilosus* sp. n., *A. pinkaei* sp. n., *A. sundalandensis* sp. n., *A. thailandianus* Terayama & Kubota, 1993, *A. watanasiti* sp. n., *A. wiliae* sp. n., and *A. wiwatwitayai* sp. n. *Aenictus ceylonicus* var. *formosensis* Forel is removed from synonymy with *A. ceylonicus* and raised to full species. Lectotype and paralectotypes are designated for *A. ceylonicus*. Redescriptions of *Aenictus ceylonicus* (Mayr, 1866) (India and Sri Lanka) and *A. doryloides* Wilson, 1964 (India) are provided. The queen of *A. cylindripetiolus* is described. A key to the Southeast Asian species of the group is given based on the worker caste. Most of the Southeast Asian species of this species group have more or less limited distribution ranges. This may be due to the poor dispersal ability generally seen among the Aenictus species, in which the propagule (reproductive unit) is an apterous queen plus accompanying workers.

Keywords

Army ants, *Aenictus ceylonicus* species group, taxonomy, Southeast Asia