

The abbreviations used for the measurements and indices are as follows:

- CI** Cephalic index,  $HW/HL \times 100$ .  
**HL** Maximum head length in full-face view, measured from the anterior clypeal margin to the midpoint of a line drawn across the posterior margin of the head.  
**HW** Maximum head width in full-face view.  
**ML** Mesosomal length measured from the point at which the pronotum meets the cervical shield to the posterior margin of metapleuron in profile.  
**PL** Petiole length measured from the anterior margin of the peduncle to the posteriormost point of tergite.  
**SI** Scape index,  $SL/HW \times 100$ .  
**SL** Scape length, excluding the basal constriction and condylar bulb.  
**TL** Total length, roughly measured from the anterior margin of head to the tip of gaster in stretched specimens.

The general terminology in the worker caste of the ants follows Hölldobler and Wilson (1990), and Bolton (1994). For the important characters in the genus *Aenictus* used in this paper, see Jaitrong and Yamane (2011).

## Taxonomy

### *Aenictus ceylonicus* species group

**Diagnosis.** Jaitrong and Yamane (2011) defined this species group as follows: antenna 10-segmented; with head in full-face view scape extending beyond half of head length, but not reaching the occipital corner of head; mandible linear; its basal and external margins almost parallel; masticatory margin with large apical tooth followed by medium-sized subapical tooth; 0–6 small denticles present between subapical tooth and basal tooth; with mandibles closed, a gap present between mandibles and anterior margin of clypeus; anterior clypeal margin weakly concave or almost straight, lacking denticles; frontal carina short and thin reaching to or extending a little beyond the level of posterior margin of torulus; with head in full-face view curved anterior extension of frontal carina reaching to or extending beyond the level of anterior clypeal margin; parafrontal ridge absent; promesonotum usually convex dorsally and sloping gradually to propodeum (rarely with almost straight dorsal outline); subpetiolar process developed.

Head and first gastral tergite smooth and shiny. Body yellowish, reddish or dark brown; typhlatta spot absent.

**Remarks.** The *A. ceylonicus* group is a unique group easily separated from the other groups by the following characteristics: mandible linear; a gap present between mandibles and anterior margin of clypeus when mandibles are closed; anterior clypeal margin almost straight or feebly concave, lacking denticles.