in Southeast Asia (Figs 24, 25, 26) most species show more or less limited ranges, being found in small areas or in special habitats. This may be because all *Aenictus* queens remain flightless throughout their lives and found new colonies by splitting from a mature colony and traveling on the ground with a large retinue of workers to a nearby location. This mode of colony foundation makes long-distance dispersal across barriers like mountain ranges, dry zones and seas highly unlikely (in the vast majority of ant species, colonies are begun by individual inseminated foundress queens, which, potentially, can raft or fly across barriers).

All the Southeast Asian species of the *A. ceylonicus* group are confined to primary forests (currently very often isolated) or areas close to them. This is confirmed by Matsumoto et al. (2009), who found that the encounter rates with six Bornean *Aenictus* species were highest in continuous and isolated primary forests compared with young secondary forests or young fallows. Thus, the great loss of the forests in Southeast Asia nowadays may have a serious negative effect on the survival of *Aenictus* species.

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