



Figure 1. Map of the Solomon Islands. The map presents all islands and island groups for which ant species were recorded. Each island/island group from which ant species are known is labeled with the geographic name and filled darker grey. Islands for which no ant records appear in the literature are unlabeled and filled with lighter grey. Relevant historic island names from the colonial era are presented with their contemporary counterparts.

Bougainville, which lies to the west, belongs politically to Papua New Guinea but is geographically part of the Solomon Islands. The next closest neighbor nation is Vanuatu, which lies southeast of the main archipelago and nearly due south of the Santa Cruz Is.

The climate of the Solomon Islands is characterized as humid with a mean temperature of 27 °C (80 °F) and relatively few fluctuations of temperature or weather. The cooler and drier part of the year occurs from June through August, and the warmer and wetter season occurs from September through May. The annual rainfall is approximately 3050 mm (120 in).

History of ant collection and research in the Solomon Islands

The first ants described from the Solomon Islands were authored by Forel (1910) in a paper on Australian ants based on the collections of W.M. Froggatt and Rowland Turner. Froggatt visited the Solomon Islands to study the insects of the coconut palms, and collected at Tulagi I. and in the Russell Group. W.M. Mann (1919) provided the first and only comprehensive revision of the Solomon Island ant fauna. He spent six months on the archipelago from 19 May to 24 November 1916, and collected on the islands Guadalcanal, Makira, Malaita, Malaupaina, New Georgia, Ngigela Sule, Owaraha, Rendova, Russell Is., Santa Cruz, Santa Isabel, Tulagi and Ugi. Mann reported the occurrence of 136 currently recognized species and subspecies, of which