

E.M.S., J.F.) collected ants in the Solomons from 30 January to 9 February, 2008. Aside from a few collections made on Mt. Austen (Guadalcanal I.), the survey primarily focused on Makira Island (formerly San Cristóbal) where we trekked and collected from Kirakira on the coast to the interior village of Maraone, reaching a maximum elevation of 912 m. Survey methods included hand collection and litter sifting along standardized transects using Winkler extraction bags. All specimens were collected into and stored in 95% ethanol. Pinned specimens were identified using the available literature and compared to type and determined material at the United States National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Washington D.C., USA, and the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZC), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. These two collections are the primary depositories for Mann's type material and also include type material designated by W.L. Brown, W.M. Wheeler and E.O. Wilson. We include the species records from this survey with the literature records.

Island records

Occurrence data of ant species on individual islands and island groups were compiled from the relevant literature. More detailed data with literature references for each species-island occurrence is available from the authors upon request. A map of the Solomon Islands (Figure 1) is also presented in which the name of every island and island group from which ant species have been recorded is labeled. The constituent islands comprising the listed island groups are presented in Table 1. In addition to including all taxa from Appendixes 1 and 2, we also include taxa from the 2008 survey of Makira that remain undetermined but might belong to previously described species. Inclusion of these additional taxa may weakly bias the observed species richness of Makira towards a higher value, but exclusion of these taxa would cause an even greater bias towards a lower value.

Sampling analysis

We used our data compilation to estimate in a general sense how undersampled the Solomon Islands are for ants. First, we compared the species richness of individual islands in the Solomons with counts of the Fijian islands, which were the target of recent intensive sampling and taxonomic analysis (Sarnat and Economo 2012). We also compared the species richness of Makira from records before and after our 2008 survey.

Table 1. Island groups and their constituent islands.

Island Group	Islands
Santa Cruz Is.	Anuta, Nendö (Santa Cruz), Nupani, Reef Is., Tikopia, Vanikoro
Olu Malau Is. (Three Sisters)	Malaupaina
Nggela Is. (Florida Is.)	Nggela Sule (Florida), Tulagi
New Georgia Is.	Kolombangarav, New Georgia, Rendova, Vangunu, Vella Lavella
Reef Is.	Matema