

A New Species of the Ant Genus
Ponera from Yaku Island.
(Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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From Japan only two species of the genus *Ponera* have hitherto been known. They are *P. japonica* WHEELER, 1906 and *P. scabra* WHEELER, 1928, both of them are well known to us. The author has collected some *Ponera* specimens from Yaku Is., which must belong to a new third species of the genus from Japan. The species is closely allied to *P. scabra* WHEELER, 1928 of Japan and *P. chapmani* TAYLOR, 1967 of Philippine, and differing from them in the details of sculpturation and others.

Before going further, the author wishes to express his thanks to Prof. RYOZO YOSUI of the Kyoto University for the kind advices.

Ponera yakushimensis sp. nov. ✓✓

Types: Three workers (Holo- & two paratypes) and a single dealate female (paratype) with the following data; Ohsugidani (alt. ca. 1200 m.), Yaku Is., Kagoshima Pref., Japan, 5. VIII. 1970, leg. M. TANAKA. All of them were collected together from a small colony found beneath thick moss on *Stewartia monadelphra* SIEB. & ZUCC. (Camelliaceae).

Workers: Having the following dimensions (for explanation of the terms see TAYLOR, 1967, pp. 16-17); Head Length 0.81-0.82 mm., Head Width 0.66-0.68 mm., Scape Length 0.58-0.60 mm., Funicular Length 0.95-0.97 mm., Cephalic Index 81-83, Scape Index 88-89, Weber's Length of Mesosoma 1.05-1.08 mm., Pronotal Width 0.50-0.53 mm., Petiolar Node Length 0.29 mm., Petiole Height 0.53 mm., Dorsal Petiole Width 0.41-0.42 mm., Petiolar Node Index 80-82, Total Length ca. 3.7-3.8 mm.

Closely resembling to *P. scabra* WHEELER, but differing in the following respects.

- (1) Dorsal outline of mesosoma in profile a little more convex, gently arching from the anterior most of pronotum to the posterodorsal border of propodeum (in *scabra*, dorsal outline of mesonotum and propodeum in profile almost horizontal).
- (2) Propodeal declivity slightly less steeply inclined, so that in lateral view posterodorsal border of propodeum making a little more dull angle.

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