

A New Species of the Army Ant Genus *Aenictus* from Taiwan (Insecta; Hymenoptera; Formicidae)

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Abstract. A new species of the genus *Aenictus* from Taiwan, *Aenictus lifuia* sp. nov., is described and illustrated based on the worker and male. The diagnosis of this species of worker caste is shown as follows: Size small (head length 0.55–0.58 mm, head width 0.48–0.50 mm), antennae 10-segmented, mandibles subtriangular with 7-teeth, scapes short (scape length 0.35–0.38 mm), promesonotum and propodeum in profile convex, anteriormost of propodeum dipping and posterior corner angulate, and subpetiolar process low and rounded.

Introduction

The genus *Aenictus* is widely distributed from the Ethiopian to the Indo-Australian regions. The genus is one of the true army ants (subfamily Dorylinae), which predate other ants, social wasps, termites, and other arthropods (Wilson, 1971).

In 1913, Forel described three forms *A. longi taivanae*, *A. latiscapus souteri*, and *A. ceylonicus* var. *formosensis*, and recorded one species *A. punctiventris* Emery from Taiwan. Santschi (1937) described *A. latiscapus souteri* var. *satoi* as a new variety, and recently Wilson (1964) synonymized *A. ceylonicus* var. *formosensis* with *A. ceylonicus*. Thus, the genus *Aenictus* has been represented by 5 forms in Taiwan. However, the worker caste is known only in the species *A. ceylonicus*, and other 4 forms are based on the male caste only.

In the present paper, the author is going to describe one species, *Aenictus lifuia*, based on the worker and male castes from Taiwan.

Aenictus lifuia sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–13)

[Japanese name: Hime-sasurai-ari]

Description. Worker—Head length 0.55–0.58 mm; head width 0.48–0.50 mm; scape length 0.35–0.38 mm; cephalic index (head width \times 100/head length) 86–91; scape index (scape length \times 100/head width) 70–79; Weber's length of alitrunk 0.83–0.88 mm; alitrunk width 0.33–0.35 mm; petiole length 0.18–0.20 mm; petiole height 0.20–0.23 mm; dorsal petiole width 0.13–0.15 mm; postpetiole length 0.18–0.20 mm; postpetiole

height 0.18–0.19 mm; dorsal postpetiole width 0.13–0.14 mm; total length 2.2–2.5 mm. (Five individuals were measured.)

Head subrectangle, 1.15 \times as long as its maximum width, with slightly convex sides and very feebly convex occipital border. Mandibles subtriangular, somewhat narrower, with 7 teeth; apical tooth well developed. Anterior clypeal border concave. Antennae 10-segmented; scape short; 2nd segment 1.4 \times as long as broad; from 3rd segment to 9th segment broader than long, increasing gradually in size; 9th segment 0.8 \times as long as broad; apical segment 2.0 \times as long as broad. Length of antennal funicles 0.68 mm; last four segments in a ratio of length from the tip 16: 7: 6: 6.

General form of alitrunk, petiole, postpetiole, and gaster as in Fig. 2. Promesonotum convex in profile; propodeum convex, anteriormost dipping, posterior corner angulate and dull pointing. Propodeal spiracles oval, approximately 0.06 mm in maximum diameter. Viewed from above, promesonotum with convex sides; lateral border of mesoscutum and propodeum parallel. Viewed from the lateral, petiole and postpetiole rectangle; round in dorsal outline. Viewed from above, petiole suboval, 1.8 \times as long as broad; postpetiole also suboval, 1.4 \times as long as broad. Subpetiolar process low and rounded.

Legs long; fore femur 0.37–0.40 mm, fore tibia 0.38–0.40 mm long; middle femur 0.43–0.44 mm long, middle tibia 0.45–0.46 mm; hind femur 0.53–0.54 mm long, hind tibia 0.56–0.58 mm long.

Subelect pilosity long and relatively abundant;