

REPORT ON A COLLECTION OF ANTS IN THE INDIAN  
MUSEUM, CALCUTTA<sup>1</sup>

BY

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(With a plate and 6 text-figures)

This report is based on a collection of ants received through the courtesy of Lieut.-Colonel R. B. Seymour Sewell, Director of the Zoological Survey of India, to whom my best thanks are due. The collection consists of 42 species representing five different sub-families. The majority of the collection is from the Himalayas, but there are a few specimens from the Palni Hills, South India, and from Calcutta. In the report besides recording several of the well-known older species I have included descriptions of six new species.

I have followed here Bingham's nomenclature as used in his volume on Hymenoptera in the Fauna of British India Series, and have given only a few of the synonyms for the purpose of reference. The arrangement into different sub-families and tribes, however, is based on Emery's recent classification as expounded in the *Genera Insectorum*.

Sub-family : DORYLINÆ Leach.

*Dorylus orientalis* Westw.

1835. *Dorylus orientalis*, Westwood, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, v, p. 72.

1903. *Dorylus orientalis*, Bingham, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Hymenoptera*, ii, p. 4, fig. 7.

1910. *Dorylus (Alaopone) orientalis*, Emery, *Genera Insectorum, Hymenoptera*, p. 10.

This species, as was pointed out by Lefroy,<sup>2</sup> is subterranean in habits and attacks plants at their bases or roots. Workers of this species were found by Lancaster on Dahlias and on a fungoid pest of Larkspur in the Agri-Horticulture Garden, Alipore, Calcutta, while their nests in the earth under bricks and stones, were noted by Rothney<sup>3</sup> in Barrackpore. Wheeler<sup>4</sup> recorded many workers from Lobo (alt. 400 ft.) in rotten wood. The species has a wide distribution in India, Burma, and has also been recorded from the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra and Java.

Sub-family : PONERINÆ Lepeletier.

TRIBE : ODONTOMACHINI Mayr.

*Odontomachus punctulatus* Forel.

1900. *Odontomachus monticola*, race *punctulatus*, Forel, *Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, xii, p. 58.

1903. *Odontomachus punctulatus*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 49, fig. 28.

The collection includes a single specimen of this species which was collected by Dr. F. H. Gravely at Kalimpong (alt. 4,500 ft.), Darjeeling district, Eastern Himalayas. The species occurs also in Sikkim and Upper Burma.

<sup>1</sup> Read before the Fifteenth Session of the Indian Science Congress held at Calcutta, 1928.

<sup>2</sup> Lefroy, H. M., *Indian Insect Life*, p. 227 (1909).

<sup>3</sup> Rothney, G. A., *Trans. Ent. Soc. London*, i, p. 109 (1903).

<sup>4</sup> Wheeler, W. M., *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, viii, p. 233 (1913).