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A NEW SPECIES OF *MYRMOTERAS* FROM CEYLON (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)¹

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Several specimens of a new ant belonging to the genus *Myrmoteras* were collected recently on the Island of Ceylon by Dr. Edward O. Wilson, and were sent to me for study and description.

Myrmoteras ceylonica sp. nov.

Fig. 1

Worker: Length, 3.09 mm.; head length (excluding mandibles), 0.90 mm.; head index, 0.94; thorax length, 1.17 mm.

The head of this species is heavily granulate, except for the shining occiput, occipital flange, and gula, and recalls the condition of *M. williamsi*, but unlike the latter species in which the cephalic furrow is marked, *ceylonica* shows no more than an elusive trace of this furrow. In certain lights, a narrow, median line of reduced and more widely spaced granules permits the area to shine and thus give a faint resemblance to the groove of other species such as *binghami*, *donisthorpei*, *williamsi*, or *karnyi*. *M. ceylonica*, therefore, belongs in that subdivision of the genus in which the head does not possess a median longitudinal furrow, or in which such a furrow is short and indistinct or nearly obsolete. Previously, only three species were found in this group, namely, *mjoebergi*, *kemneri*, and *barbouri*.

The new species may be distinguished at once from *mjoebergi* (3-5.6 mm.) by its smaller size (3.09 mm.) and

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