

Rostrormymex, a new genus of myrmicine ants from Peninsular Malaysia (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Ent. scand.

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Rostrormymex, a new genus of myrmicine ants from Peninsular Malaysia is described on the basis of workers, dealate females, and a single male. Analysis of characters suggests a closest relationship with either *Lordomyrma* or the *Solenopsis* genus group.

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Introduction

During a biodiversity study in a primary lowland rain forest, the Pasoh Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan, Peninsular Malaysia, a number of undescribed species of ants were found. Among these were specimens of a new myrmicine genus, collected by hand in rotten wood.

Methods

Total length (TL). Sum of the following lengths: (1) head in full-face view from apex of mandibles to occipital margin (more precisely: to midpoint of a line connecting posterolateral projections of head), (2) alitrunk in dorsal view from anterior pronotal margin (excluding neck) to narrow constriction of petiolar peduncle at its insertion on propodeum, (3) petiolar peduncle in dorsal view from constriction to node, (4) nodes of petiole and postpetiole in dorsal view, and (5) gaster in dorsal view.

Head length (HL). In full-face view from the anteriormost point of clypeus (in this case clypeal projection: 'rostrum') to midpoint of a line connecting posterolateral projections of head.

Head width (HW). Maximum width in full-face view (excluding the eyes in worker and queen, including the eyes in male).

Cephalic index (CI). $HW \times 100 / HL$.

Scape length (SL). Maximum length excluding basal constriction, in frontal view as seen in Fig. 1.

Scape index (SI). $SL \times 100 / HW$.

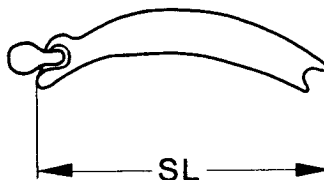


Fig. 1. Measurement of the scape length (SL).

Pronotal width (PW). Maximal width in dorsal view.

Alitrunk length (AL). Diagonal length in lateral view from anterior margin of pronotum (excluding neck) to posterior margin of propodeal lobe. [According to P. Ward, pers. comm., the term 'propodeal lobe' is more appropriate than 'metapleural lobe' as it is derived from the propodeum, not from the metapleuron. Other synonyms are 'infrapropodeal lobes' and 'inferior propodeal plates'.]

Measurements, in millimetres, were taken with an ocular micrometer on a Zeiss microscope. Indices were calculated before converting micrometer units to millimetres. The terminology for sculpture follows Harris (1979), for wing venation in males Brown & Nutting (1950).

Depositories. - Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Karlsruhe, Germany (SMNK); The Natural History Museum [= British Museum (Natural History)], London, U.K. (BMNH).