

## Ergebnisse der Deutschen Afghanistan-Expedition 1956 der Landessammlungen für Naturkunde Karlsruhe

### Formicidae (Hymenoptera Aculeata)

by

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Dr. H. G. AMSEL has kindly permitted me to examine a small but interesting collection of Formicidae taken during the course of the West German expedition to Afghanistan in 1956. The collection consists of about a 100 mounted specimens which were taken by Dr. AMSEL and his colleagues Dr. J. DELERÉ and Dr. S. WILKE from a few localities in the northern part of the country. The localities include Polichromi and Andkhui in the extreme north, Gulbahar in the north-east, Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, in the east and Herat, the main town in the west. The collecting sites were mainly dry steppe with sparse vegetation at moderate altitude, from 330 to 1700 m. above sea level. The species taken include the following: —

*Camponotus (Tanaemyrmex) turkestanicus* EMERY; Polichromi, Herat. 2 ♀♀, 1 ♂.

*Camponotus (Tanaemyrmex) turkestanus* ANDRÉ; Gulbahar, 1 ♀, 7 ♂♂.

*Camponotus (Tanaemyrmex)* sp. ? Herat. 1 ♂.

*Cataglyphis setipes* FOREL; Herat. 9 ♀♀.

*Cataglyphis (Monocambus) emeryi* KARAWAIEV; Herat, Polichromi. 6 ♀♀.

*Proformica deserta* KUZNETZOV-UGAMSKIJ; Gulbahar, Andkhui. 1 ♂, 7 ♀♀.

*Formica bipilosa* KARAWAIEV; Polichromi, 9 ♂♂, 14 ♀♀.

*Acantholepis frauenfeldi* MAYR; Herat. 15 ♀♀.

*Plagiolepis pygmaea* LATREILLE; Herat. 1 ♀.

*Tapinoma simrothi* KRAUSSE; Herat. 1 ♀, 10 ♀♀.

*Pheidole arenarum* RUZSKY; Herat, Kabul. 5 ♀♀.

*Monomorium (Xeromyrmex)* sp. ? Polichromi. 1 ♂.

*Messor meridionalis* ANDRÉ; Herat. 10 ♀♀.

*Tetramorium striativentre* MAYR; Polichromi. 1 ♀.

*Cataglyphis setipes* is widely distributed through North and Central India, and Herat probably represents the north-west extremity of its range. Further westward this species appears to be replaced by others of the *Cataglyphis bicolor* FAB. group from which it is distinguished by the bristle-like thickened tibial hairs. *Acantholepis frauenfeldi*, of which the Herat specimens may represent a dark local form, and *apinoma simrothi*, distinguished from *T. erraticum* of Europe by the deeper cleft in the front clypeal border, extend widely through the South Mediterranean. *Plagiolepis pygmaea* is abundant throughout South Europe. *Messor meridionalis* and *Pheidole arenarum* occur throughout the Middle East and in parts of South-