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Revision of the Oriental Plant-ant Genus *Cladomyrma*

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ABSTRACT

The oriental plant-ant genus *Cladomyrma* Wheeler is revised, including now 11 species. Six species are described as new (*aurochaetae, crypteroniae, dianeae, maryatiae, yongi, nudidorsalis*), *mossyna* is synonymized with *petalae,* and *cryptata* with *andrei*; *hobbyi* and *hewitti* are revived from synonymy and resurrected as species. A key to queen caste is provided. The biology of the species is briefly discussed and the occurrence of *Cladomyrma* in Sumatra is noted for the first time.

INTRODUCTION

Since the last revision of this genus eight years ago (Agosti, 1991), more material has become available, mainly through meticulous studies of ant/plant associations by the two research groups of Ulrich Maschwitz (Moog and Maschwitz, 1994; Moog et al., 1998) and Diane Davidson (Davidson and McKey, 1993). Their objective is to understand the ecology and evolutionary biology of ant–plant interactions. However, studies on such systems face the problem of complex patterns of species associations. Whereas the number of involved plant-ant species is comparatively easily assessed, the diversity of plant-ants is often subject to speculation. This is true for the *Cladomyrma*–plant associations as well. During the last few years, many more host plants of *Cladomyrma* were found. According to present knowledge, *Cladomyrma* inhabits live stems of at least 18 species of host plants in nine different genera, thus colonizing about 50% of all plant genera (except epiphytes) which are regularly associated with specialized stem-nesting ant partners in the Oriental region (Moog et al., in press). It is expected that in future studies still more host plant species will be

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