

**A TAXONOMIC STUDY OF THE ANT GENUS
BRACHYPONERA EMERY IN SOUTHWESTERN CHINA
(HYMENOPTERA FORMICIDAE PONERINAE)**

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Abstract

Three species of the ant genus *Brachyponera* Emery in Southwestern China are reported. *B. chinensis* (Emery) and *B. luteipes* (Mayr) are recorded in this area for the first time. *B. brevidorsa* Xu sp. nov. is described as new to science. A key is provided for the 3 known species. Figures and known distributions are given to each species.

Brachyponera brevidorsa Xu, sp. nov. is close to *B. luteipes* (Mayr), but the new one with the dorsal surface of propodeum slightly convex, distinctly shorter than the apical surface; occipital margin of the head straight; mandibles, flagella of antennae and legs yellowish brown. Holotype worker, CHINA: Baoshan (99.1° E, 25.1° N), 1880 m, Yunnan Prov., 11. X. 1991, no. A91-1022 (Xu Zheng-hui). Paratypes: 17 workers, with the same data as the holotype; 2 workers, with the same data as holotype, but no. A91~1053. The type specimens are deposited in the Insect Collection, Department of Forest Protection, Southwest Forestry College, Kunming, Yunnan, China.

Key words Hymenoptera; Formicidae; *Brachyponera*; Taxonomy; Southwest China