

A NEW GENUS AND A NEW SPECIES OF MYRMICINAE (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new genus of formicidae with a new species viz. *Neoblepharidatta nayana* is described and commented on its distinguishing features from related genera.

Key words: Formicidae, New genus, New species, *Neoblepharidatta nayana*.

INTRODUCTION

While we were studying the formicid fauna of Malabar (Kerala), we came across a very interesting specimen belonging to the subfamily Myrmicinae which do not fit to the key to genera of Myrmicinae by Bingham (1903), Holldöbler and Wilson (1990), Bolton (1994) or any other descriptions of the genera of Myrmicinae listed by Bolton (1995). So it is described here as a genus new to science. The specimen is obtained from one of the hot spot areas of Western Ghats.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

DZCU : Department of zoology, University of Calicut

F1-F8 : Funicular segments 1-8

T1 : First tergite; TL - Total length; HL - Head length; HW-Head width; CI-Cephalic index; SL-Scape length; SI-Scape index; ED-Eye diameter; PW- Pronotal width; AL-Alitrunk length.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimen is obtained by an all out search in the forest areas of Iritty. The observations were made using M3Z Wild Stereozoom (Switzerland made) and Leitz-Wetzlar (German made) microscopes. The figures were drawn using the drawing tube of Wild M3Z Stereozoom microscope and enlarged using KB enlarger of model B2M. The specimen is deposited in the collections of Department of Zoology.