

A Revision of the Ant Genus *Stenamma* in the Palearctic and Oriental Regions (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae)

by

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ABSTRACT

Palearctic and Oriental species of the myrmicine ant genus *Stenamma* Westwood are reviewed and keys are presented for their identification. Twenty four species are recognized from these regions. Three species are described as new (*S. orientale* from Sarawak, *S. gurkhalis* from Nepal, and *S. jertorum* from Pakistan); the synonymy of four species is confirmed (*S. tscherssicum* = *S. striatulum*, *S. westwoodii polonicum* = *S. debile*, *S. myops* = *S. punctiventre*, and *S. caucasicum* = *S. hirtulum* = *S. lippulum*). Additional synonymies are presented (*S. africanum submuticum* = *S. africanum* = *S. msilanum*, *S. golosojevi* = *S. ucrainicum* = *S. debile*). Specimens representing types of two species have been lost (previous descriptions prove inadequate for identification) and the names associated should be considered *Incertae Sedis* until such specimens are located (*S. westwoodii asiatica*, and *S. berendt*).

INTRODUCTION

Ants (in their currently recognized habitus) have survived for at least 65 million years (Brown, Wilson, and Carpenter, 1969). Although a number of species have passed into extinction, many have prospered to propel this group into one of the dominant life forms on earth (Hölldobler and Wilson, 1990). Some species are extremely abundant and frequently encountered. Others are secretive and discovered only through patient extraction from sod, leaf litter, or rotten wood.

The ant genus *Stenamma* belongs to this latter category. Although a number of species are known, most are represented from a few isolated localities; many species are known from workers only. There are many qualified ant collectors scattered throughout the world, yet some species remain quite rare. Examples include *S. sogdianum*, *S. picetojuglandeti*, *S. ussuriense*, and *S. hissarianum* (all known from a handful of specimens each). It is possible that additional specimens of

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