

may be an adaptation to conserve thermal energy given the elevation from which this species was collected.

ETYMOLOGY

This species is named after one of the groups of people living in the area where it was first collected (Nepal), the Gurkhas. I am especially thankful for the support provided while collecting ants in 1997, especially to Narbahudar Limbu.

COMPARISONS

This species is most closely related to *S. owstoni* based upon thoracic and head sculpture and petiolar profile. It can be separated from the latter species due to the smaller size of the former.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

NEPAL: Phulchoki, 30 V 1983, 2800 m elevation, M. Brendell (BMNH - 3 workers, including holotype) (MCZ - 1 worker).

Stenamma orientale Species Group

Oriental ants with foveolate thoracic and propodeal dorsa. Anterior subpetiolar process greatly reduced. Wing venation presently unknown (since males and gynes unknown).

This species group contains a single species, *S. orientale* which is sufficiently distinct and does not appear to have any close relatives (based on morphology and geographic isolation). These ants appear hypogaecic (currently known only from soil samples). Although presently known from scattered localities on Borneo, this species may have a wider distribution (perhaps the area surrounding the Sunda Shelf). It may have been overlooked due to its secretive nature.

Stenamma orientale sp. n.

Worker Figs 41 - 43, 210 - 212.

Distribution Fig. 213.

WORKER

Measurements and associated statistics are listed in Appendix Table 21. Key statistics (measurement mean \pm standard error of mean, n) are listed herein: TL (3.27 ± 0.104 , 7), HL (0.87 ± 0.003 , 7), HW (0.60 ± 0.006 , 7), CI (84.26 ± 0.010 , 7), SL (0.58 ± 0.004 , 7), SI (95.83 ± 0.008 , 7), AL (0.85 ± 0.024 , 7), PRW (0.49 ± 0.008 , 7), PL (0.40 ± 0.007 , 7), PH (0.23 ± 0.005 , 7).

HOLOTYPE Measurements. TL 3.32, HL 0.71, HW 0.61, EL 0.14, SL 0.58, CI 86, SI 95, AL 1.14, PRW 0.50, PL 0.40, PH 0.24.

Mandible with 6 teeth (badly worn in one specimen examined);