

**REDESCRIPTION OF A LITTLE KNOWN MYRMICINE ANT
RECURVIDRIS RECURVISPINOSA (FOREL)
(HYMENOPTERA : FORMICIDAE)**

S. SHEELA, T. C. NARENDRAN* and R. N. TIWARI
Zoological Survey of India, M-Block, New Alipore, Calcutta 700 053

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Recurvidris* was first described a century back from India, and named *Trigonogaster*. Unfortunately this was preoccupied by a Pteromalid chalcid and hence Bolton (1992) proposed new name to this genus as *Recurvidris*, genuinely based on one of the most striking habitus characters of all workers under this genus, the long upward and forward-curved propodeal spine.

The genus was earlier placed somewhere in Pheidologetonini (Forel, 1917; Emery, 1922) or in Solenopsidini (Wheeler, 1922, 1927). But Ettershank (1966) removed this genus from the above two tribes due to the lack of anterior-median seta on clypeus.

The genus is Oriental and Indo-Australian in distribution. It is represented by small, yellow ants belong to the subfamily Myrmicinae. They range from India and Sri Lanka eastwards to Japan and southwards to Sulawesi in Indonesia. The genus has not yet been reported from New Guinea and Australia.

Regarding habitat, these little ants are reported from the forest area, lying under leaf litters. Till date, only workers are represented under the genus except males of only one species. The queens are yet to be reported.

Bolton (1992) revised this genus and described *proles*, *browni*, *hebe*, *pickburni* and *williami* as new species, besides earlier described species *kemneri* and *recurvispinosa*.

Bingham (1903) in *Fauna of British India* (Hymenoptera : Formicidae) mentioned only one species *Trigonogaster recurvispinosa* Forel and his descriptions are confined to few lines, and quite insufficient, even the diagram does not represent the specific characters.

The present work is an attempt to provide sufficient description of the species with detailed diagrams, which can be properly utilised for comparison, if one comes across some other species of the genus *Recurvidris*.

* Professor, Dept. of Zoology, University of Calicut, Kerala - 673 635