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## FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THE FEMALE OF *MYRMICA RITAE* (HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE), WITH SOME NOTES ON THE *RITAE* GROUP

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**First Description of the Female of *Myrmica ritae* (Hymenoptera, Formicidae), with Some Notes on the *ritae* Group.** Radchenko A. G., Elmes G. W. — The first known female of *Myrmica ritae* Emery is described and compared with the other known females of the *ritae* complex (*M. serica* Wheeler, *M. indica* Weber and *M. gigantea* (Collingwood)). It differs from all three species by straight (not sinuous) longitudinal rugae on the head dorsum, a shorter head and by relatively longer propodeal spines. *M. rigatoi* Radchenko et Elmes is proposed to be excluded from *ritae* group. Some new localities are added to the distribution of *M. gigantea* and *M. urbanii* Radchenko et Elmes.

**Key words:** Formicidae, ants, taxonomy, *Myrmica ritae*.

**Первое описание самки *Myrmica ritae* (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) с замечаниями по группе *ritae*.** Радченко А. Г., Элмс Г. В. — Впервые описана самка *Myrmica ritae* Emery и проведено ее сравнение с другими известными самками видов из комплекса *ritae* (*M. serica* Wheeler, *M. indica* Weber и *M. gigantea* (Collingwood)). Она отличается от самок выше указанных видов прямыми, не волнистыми продольными морщинками на голове, более короткой головой и сравнительно более длинными шипами проподеума. Предложено исключить *M. rigatoi* Radchenko et Elmes из состава группы *ritae*. Приведены некоторые дополнительные данные по распространению *M. gigantea* и *M. urbanii* Radchenko et Elmes.

**Ключевые слова:** Formicidae, муравьи, таксономия, *Myrmica ritae*.

### Introduction

In the earlier paper we made a taxonomic revision of the *ritae* group of species belonging to the genus *Myrmica* (Radchenko, Elmes, 1998). We proposed separate the *ritae*-group into two complexes: the *ritae* complex and *boltoni* complex. The *boltoni* complex comprises three species that differ separated from the *ritae* complex by much more finely striated or rugulose heads with punctures on the surfaces between the rugae. The *ritae* group comprised the six species described before 1998 and two species, described in 1998 — *Myrmica urbanii* Radchenko et Elmes and *M. rigatoi* Radchenko et Elmes. However, we now believe that *M. rigatoi* was erroneously included into *ritae* group because it shares many characters with a group of species close to on *Myrmica inezae* Forel. We now propose exclude *M. rigatoi* from the *ritae* group; this will be discussed in the forthcoming revision of the Himalayan *Myrmica*.

*Myrmica ritae* Emery was described in 1889. Four workers from Emery's original series deposited in several museums, but no other specimens were known to exist. In our revision (Radchenko, Elmes, 1998) we also examined 3 specimens from the collection of Andreas Schulz. Since then we have discovered a further worker in the collection of the Natural History Museum (London), and A. Schulz has found some other workers and a female from the same series in his collection. Females of *M. ritae* were not known previously, therefore we describe this specimen below. All measurements and indices are as described by Radchenko and Elmes (1998).

### *Myrmica ritae* Emery, 1889 (Fig. 1, 1–5)

**Material.** 1 female (dealate): "Nordtailand, Prov. Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, N. P. Hipfel Region, 1800–2000 mH, 1.11.1995, leg. Schulz & Vock", deposited in Schulz collection (Germany, Lechlingen).

**Female (dealate).** Head subrectangular, with somewhat convex sides, straight occipital margin and narrowly rounded occipital corners; its upper latero-ventral corners