

## A NEW SPECIES OF THE ANT GENUS *LIOMETOPUM* MAYR FROM GUANGXI, CHINA (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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**Abstract** A new species of the genus *Liometopum* Mayr, *L. minimum* sp. nov., is described. A key based on worker caste is given to the known species of the genus in China.

**Key words** Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Liometopum*, new species.

*Liometopum* Mayr is a small genus in the subfamily Dolichoderinae of the family Formicidae. Eight living species, one subspecies and six fossil species were described in the world (Bolton, 1995). Among them four species and one subspecies distribute over America, two species over Yugoslavia, two species over Baltic Amber. Mexico, Austria, and Russia each has only one species or varieties. Only two species and one variety were recorded in Oriental Region: *L. lingreeni* Forel from India, *L. sinense* Wheeler and *L. sinense* var. *sericatum* Wheeler from China. While we had a biodiversity survey in Guangxi, a new species was discovered.

The type specimens are deposited in the Insect Collection of the Department of Biology, Guangxi Normal University, Guilin.

Standard measurements and indices used in this paper are as follows: HL (head length), HW (head width), SL (scape length), PW (pronotum width), AL (alitrunk length), ED (eye diameter), CI (cephalic index =  $HW \times 100 / HL$ ), SI (scape index =  $SL \times 100 / HW$ ), TL (total length).

### Key to the species of *Liometopum* Mayr in China

(Based on worker caste)

1. Small species, TL less than 2.5 mm; mandibles with 5 teeth; pubescence on gastral segments pointed backward (Distribution: Guangxi) ..... *L. minimum* sp. nov.  
Larger species, TL more than 3 mm; mandibles with more than 10 teeth; pubescence on the first gastral segment pointed outward, those on second and third segments pointed inward. .... 2
2. Body reddish; pubescence denser, so that the surface of the gaster is completely concealed (Distribution: Shannxi, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Guangdong) ..... *L. sinense* Wheeler  
Body less reddish; pubescence sparser, not completely concealed the surface of the gaster (Distribution: Jiangsu) .....  
..... *L. sinense* var. *sericatum* Wheeler

### *Liometopum minimum* sp. nov. (Figs. 3-8)

Holotype worker (Unit: mm). HL 0.55, HW 0.53, SL 0.38, PW 0.36, AL 0.60, CI 94, SI 70, ED 0.08, TL 2.0. Head large, a little longer than broad, broader posteriorly than in front, the anterior corners not swollen and prominent. Mandibles moderately convex, with 5 teeth, the third the smallest. Clypeus convex in the middle, ecarinate, its anterior border sinuate, shallowly concave in the middle. Eyes flattened. Frontal area and frontal groove obsolete.

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