

First record of the myrmicine ant genus *Paedalgus* Forel, 1911 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from the Western Hemisphere

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Abstract

FERNÁNDEZ F. 2002. First record of the myrmicine ant genus *Paedalgus* Forel, 1911 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from the Western Hemisphere. Entomotropica 17(2):181-182.

The myrmicine ant genus *Paedalgus* Forel, 1911 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) is recorded for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, based upon several undescribed species collected in Colombia, Peru and Brazil. The genus was previously known only from Africa and Sri Lanka.

Additional key words: Faunistics, Pheidologetonini, taxonomy.

Resumen

FERNÁNDEZ F. 2002. Primer registro de hormigas Myrmicinae del género *Paedalgus* Forel, 1911 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) del Hemisferio Occidental. Entomotropica 17(2):181-182.

El género de hormigas *Paedalgus* Forel, 1911 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae) se registra por primera vez para el Hemisferio Occidental con base en varias especies no descritas de Colombia, Perú y Brasil. Hasta el momento el género sólo se conocía de África y Sri Lanka.

Palabras clave adicionales: Faunística, Pheidologetonini, taxonomía.

Introduction and Methods

The use of Winkler is highly effective for sampling leaf litter arthropods, particularly ants (Agosti et al. 2002). Thanks to the use of these traps in the insect surveys of the Humboldt Institute in Colombia, we have obtained rich soil and leaf-litter faunas of ants and other arthropods, some of them with great taxonomic and biogeographic relevance, as the ants reported in this paper.

Here I report for first time the myrmicine ant genus *Paedalgus* for the Western Hemisphere. The material examined comes from the insect collections of Humboldt Institute, Villa de Leyva, Colombia (IAvH), Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, Brasil (MZSP) and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History; California (LACM).

Results and Discussion

Paedalgus Forel (Myrmicinae: Pheidologetonini)

Material examined:

Paedalgus sp. 1 & sp. 2

COLOMBIA. Putumayo, Kofanes Territory, Winkler trap, 9 workers (IAvH).

Paedalgus sp. 3

COLOMBIA. Norte de Santander, Tamá National Park, Winkler trap, E.L. Gonzalez leg., 1 worker (IAvH).

Paedalgus sp. 4

COLOMBIA. Putumayo, La Paya National Park, Winkler trap, 2.x.2000, D. Campos leg. (IAvH).

Paedalgus sp. 5

BRAZIL: Nova Teutonia, 27°11'S 52°23'W, F. Plaumann leg., 3 workers (MZSP).

Paedalgus sp. 6

PERÚ. Madre de Dios, Cocha Cashu, wet forest, 7.oct.99, D.W. Davidson leg., 8 workers (LACM).

The members of *Paedalgus* are minute ants comprising 10 species from Africa and Sri Lanka (Bolton and Belshaw 1993). All studied specimens represent undescribed species. Besides representing new generic records for Colombia, Brasil, and Peru, *Paedalgus* is also a new record for the Western Hemisphere.