First Record of Genus *Pristomyrmex* Mayr 1866 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from India

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Abstract

The genus *Pristomyrmex* Mayr, 1866 is recorded for the first time from India. The species *Pristomyrmex sulcatus* Emery, 1895 has been collected from North-East Himalaya.

Keywords: *Myrmicinae, Pristomyrmex sulcatus, India, North-East Himalaya.*

Introduction

The ant genus *Pristomyrmex* Mayr comprises of 58 extant valid species restricted to the Old World tropics (Sarnat and Economo 2013, Bolton 2014). Most of the species occur primarily in the Oriental region, but few endemic species have been reported from Australia, Africa and Fiji. In addition, the genus has also been reported from Mauritius and temperate regions of China, Korea and Japan (Wang 2003, Guenard *et al.* 2010 and Bolton 2014). A comprehensive taxonomic revision of the genus was carried by Wang (2003). Other taxonomic contributions to the genus include, a review of the Philippine *Pristomyrmex* with three new descriptions and a key to the species (Zettel 2006), a key to the Taiwan species (Terayama 2009) and more recently report of a new species from Fiji (Sarnat and Economo 2013).

As mentioned by Wang (2003) most of the *Pristomyrmex* species forage as predators and scavengers. The nests can be found in soil, litter rotten logs, in plants roots etc.

From India, the genus *Pristomyrmex* is reported for the first time. The species *Pristomyrmex sulcatus* Emery, 1895 is collected from North-East Himalaya. Earlier, this species have been recorded from China, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar.

Material Examined

3 workers, India, East Sikkim, Rorathang, 587m, 27°11′49.91″N 88°36′12.44″E, 12.vi. 2012.

Ecology

The specimens were collected by Winkler’s extractor from an undisturbed dense secondary forest. The thickness of leaf litter was about 4 inches. The floor of the forest receives limited sun light. The maximum temperature of the area is 28°C, minimum -1°C and rainfall 325cm per annum.

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References


