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**Taxonomy of the cerapachyine ant genera
Simopone Forel, *Vicinopone* gen. n. and *Tanipone* gen. n.
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae)**

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Abstract

Taxonomic studies of three cerapachyine ant genera are presented: the Old World tropical *Simopone* Forel, the Afrotropical *Vicinopone* gen. n. and the Malagasy endemic genus *Tanipone* gen. n. *Vicinopone* is a monotypic genus, the sole species of which (*conciliatrix*) was formerly included in *Simopone*. Ten species of *Tanipone* are recognised (*aglandula*, *aversa*, *cognata*, *hirsuta*, *maculata*, *pilosa*, *scelestia*, *subpilosa*, *varia*, *zona*), all of which are newly described here. The number of species of *Simopone* is increased from 15 to 38 by the description of 9 new Afrotropical species (*amana*, *brunnea*, *dryas*, *laticapa*, *miniflava*, *occulta*, *persculpta*, *rabula*, *vepres*), 13 new Madagascan species (*consimilis*, *dignita*, *dux*, *elegans*, *fera*, *inculta*, *merita*, *nonnihil*, *rex*, *sicaria*, *silens*, *trita*, *victrix*), and the resurrection of one name (*wilburi*) from synonymy. Modern diagnoses of the genera are included, together with newly designed keys to the Afrotropical and Malagasy species.

Key words: Taxonomy, Cerapachyinae, *Simopone*, *Vicinopone*, *Tanipone*, Afrotropical Malagasy, diagnoses, keys to species.

Introduction

This study presents taxonomic revisions of three genera, all currently referred to Cerapachyinae, tribe Cerapachyini (*sensu* Bolton, 2003). The largest by far, with 38 species, is *Simopone*, which is primarily arboreal and widely distributed in the Old World tropics, with the majority of species in Madagascar (16) and sub-Saharan Africa (18). It