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The ant genus *Tetramorium* Mayr (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in the Malagasy region—taxonomic revision of the *T. kelleri* and *T. tortuosum* species groups

FRANCISCO HITA GARCIA^{1,*} & BRIAN L. FISHER²

¹ Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco, CA 94118, U.S.A.
Email: phitagarcia@calacademy.org

² Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco, CA 94118, U.S.A.
Email: bfisher@calacademy.org

* Corresponding author



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Abstract

The taxonomy of the *T. kelleri* and *T. tortuosum* groups is revised for the Malagasy zoogeographical region. Twenty-four species are recognised of which 18 are described as new and six re-described. This raises the species richness for the genus *Tetramorium* in the Malagasy region to 84 species. The *T. kelleri* group is endemic to the Malagasy region, and contains the two species *T. ankarana* sp. n. and *T. kelleri* Forel. The *T. tortuosum* group is distributed in most zoogeographical regions, but reaches its highest species richness in the Malagasy region with the 22 species treated herein. All species are endemic to the island of Madagascar. Based on morphological key characters, the group was divided into four species complexes. The largest species complex is the *T. andrei* complex with the nine species: *Tetramorium ala* sp. n., *Tetramorium andohahela* sp. n., *Tetramorium andrei* Forel, *Tetramorium electrum* Bolton, *Tetramorium elf* sp. n., *Tetramorium isectum* Bolton, *Tetramorium isoelectrum* sp. n., *Tetramorium nify* sp. n., and *Tetramorium voasary* sp. n. The name *Tetramorium robustior* Forel is proposed as junior synonym of *T. andrei*. The most species-poor is the *T. jedi* species complex with just the three species *Tetramorium avaratra* sp. n., *Tetramorium jedi* sp. n., and *Tetramorium pleganon* Bolton. The *T. noeli* species complex holds four species: *Tetramorium aherni* sp. n., *Tetramorium ambanizana* sp. n., *Tetramorium noeli* sp. n., and *Tetramorium singletonae* sp. n. The *T. smaug* species complex includes the six species: *Tetramorium adamsi* sp. n., *Tetramorium marojejy* sp. n., *Tetramorium latreillei* Forel, *Tetramorium nazgul* sp. n., *Tetramorium sabatra* sp. n., and *Tetramorium smaug* sp. n. Furthermore, lectotypes and paralectotypes are designated