Revision of the ant genus *Myrmoteras* of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Formicinae)

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**Abstract**

The Indo-Chinese species of the genus *Myrmoteras* are revised. We recognise one species in the subgenus *Myagroteras* and six species in the subgenus *Myrmoteras* from Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand. Five new species are described based on the worker caste: *M. concolor*, *M. jaitrongi*, *M. namphuong*, *M. opalinum*, and *M. tomimasai*, all belonging to the subgenus *Myrmoteras*.

**Key words:** *Myrmoteras*, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, new species

**Introduction**

The ant genus *Myrmoteras* Forel, 1893 is one of the formicine groups with the most bizarre form. They have an oddly-shaped head, huge eyes and extraordinarily long mandibles opening wider than has been observed for any other ant (Moffett, 1985). In the course of our ant diversity studies in Southeast Asia including Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, *Myrmoteras* are infrequently encountered and considered rare (Bui, 2000, 2002; Eguchi et al., 2003; Yamane et al., 2002, 2005). On the other hand, in some places like the Sang Le Forest Ecosystem of Pu Mat National Park, Nghe An, Vietnam (a forest dominated by *Lagerstroemia tomentosa* Presl.), colonies are often aggregated in certain small areas.


The ant fauna of the Indo-Chinese peninsula is poorly known (Bui & Eguchi 2003, Yamane et al. 2003, Eguchi et al. 2005). In the present paper the genus *Myrmoteras* in this region is reviewed, based on newly obtained material from Vietnam and Thailand. We propose five new species and present a key to the species from this region.