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## Revision of the Malagasy ponerine ants of the genus *Leptogenys* Roger (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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## Table of contents

Abstract	4
1. Introduction	5
2. Material and methods	6
3. Results	7
Taxonomic synopsis of the genus <i>Leptogenys</i>	7
Malagasy species groups	9
Identification key to species groups of the workers of Malagasy <i>Leptogenys</i>	9
Checklist of <i>Leptogenys</i> species from the Malagasy region	10
Identification key to species of the worker caste of Malagasy <i>Leptogenys</i>	11
Malagasy species of <i>Leptogenys</i>	39
The <i>attenuata</i> group	39
<i>Leptogenys angusta</i> (Forel)	40
<i>Leptogenys coerulescens</i> Emery	42
<i>Leptogenys comajojo</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	44
<i>Leptogenys edsoni</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	46
<i>Leptogenys fasika</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	48
<i>Leptogenys grandidieri</i> Forel	50
<i>Leptogenys johary</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	52
<i>Leptogenys lucida</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	53
<i>Leptogenys malama</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	55
<i>Leptogenys mangabe</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	57
<i>Leptogenys manongarivo</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	60
<i>Leptogenys variabilis</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	60
<i>Leptogenys zohy</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	63
The <i>fiandry</i> group	67
<i>Leptogenys alamando</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	67
<i>Leptogenys anjara</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	69
<i>Leptogenys fiandry</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	70
<i>Leptogenys rabesoni</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	72
The <i>incisa</i> group	75
<i>Leptogenys alluaudi</i> Emery	75
<i>Leptogenys antongilensis</i> Emery	77
<i>Leptogenys barimaso</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	79
<i>Leptogenys chrislaini</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	81
<i>Leptogenys gracilis</i> Emery	83
<i>Leptogenys imerinensis</i> Forel, stat. rev., stat. n.	84
<i>Leptogenys incisa</i> Forel	87
<i>Leptogenys lavavava</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	88
<i>Leptogenys manja</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	90
<i>Leptogenys namana</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	91
<i>Leptogenys oswaldi</i> (Forel)	93
<i>Leptogenys pilaka</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	95
<i>Leptogenys sahamalaza</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	97
<i>Leptogenys suarensis</i> Emery, stat. rev., stat. n.	99
<i>Leptogenys tatsimo</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	101
<i>Leptogenys vitsy</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	102
<i>Leptogenys voeltzkowi</i> Forel	104
The <i>maxillosa</i> group	109
<i>Leptogenys falcigera</i> Roger	109
<i>Leptogenys maxillosa</i> (F. Smith)	111
<i>Leptogenys pavesii</i> Emery	113
The <i>saussurei</i> group	116
<i>Leptogenys acutirostris</i> Santschi	116
<i>Leptogenys ambo</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	118
<i>Leptogenys andritantely</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	120
<i>Leptogenys lohahela</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	121
<i>Leptogenys ralipra</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	123
<i>Leptogenys saussurei</i> (Forel)	125
<i>Leptogenys vatovavy</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n.	126
The <i>stuhlmanni</i> group	129
<i>Leptogenys stuhlmanni</i> Mayr	129
The <i>toeraniva</i> group	131

<i>Leptogenys avaratra</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	131
<i>Leptogenys avo</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	133
<i>Leptogenys bezanozano</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	135
<i>Leptogenys toeraniva</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	136
The <i>truncatirostris</i> group . . . . .	139
<i>Leptogenys alatapia</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	140
<i>Leptogenys arcistrostris</i> Santschi . . . . .	141
<i>Leptogenys borivava</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	143
<i>Leptogenys diana</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	145
<i>Leptogenys fotsivava</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	147
<i>Leptogenys namoroka</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	148
<i>Leptogenys ridens</i> Forel . . . . .	150
<i>Leptogenys truncatirostris</i> Forel . . . . .	152
<i>Leptogenys tsingy</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	154
Uncertain species group. . . . .	157
<i>Leptogenys mayotte</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	157
<i>Leptogenys rabebe</i> Rakotonirina and Fisher, sp. n. . . . .	159
Aknowledgments . . . . .	160

## Abstract

*Leptogenys* is the most diverse ponerine ant genus in the world; it is widespread throughout tropical and subtropical regions and there are over 200 extant species described. Most species have ergatoid queens, and many have falcate, bowed mandibles and are specialists on isopod prey. Here, the Malagasy *Leptogenys* are revised with 60 species recognized, of which 40 are newly described, 18 redescribed, and two subspecies raised to species rank and redescribed. Included in the revision are a key to species based on the worker caste, geographic distributions, descriptions of intraspecific variation, and notes on natural history. The following species are redescribed: *L. acutirostris* Santschi, *L. alluaudi* Emery, *L. angusta* (Forel), *L. antongilensis* Emery, *L. arcistrostris* Santschi, *L. coerulescens* Emery, *L. falcigera* Roger, *L. gracilis* Emery, *L. grandidieri* Forel, *L. incisa* Forel, *L. maxillosa* (F. Smith), *L. oswaldi* Forel, *L. pavesii* Emery, *L. ridens* Forel, *L. saussurei* (Forel), *L. stuhlmanni* Mayr, *L. truncatirostris* Forel, and *L. voeltzkowi* Forel. The following are raised to species and redescribed: *L. imerinensis* Forel **stat. rev., stat. n.**; and *L. suarensis* Emery **stat. rev., stat. n.** The following are described as new: *L. alamando* **sp. n.**, *L. alatapia* **sp. n.**, *L. ambo* **sp. n.**, *L. andritantely* **sp. n.**, *L. anjara* **sp. n.**, *L. avaratra* **sp. n.**, *L. avo* **sp. n.**, *L. barimaso* **sp. n.**, *L. bezanozano* **sp. n.**, *L. borivava* **sp. n.**, *L. chrislaini* **sp. n.**, *L. comajojo* **sp. n.**, *L. diana* **sp. n.**, *L. edsoni* **sp. n.**, *L. fasika* **sp. n.**, *L. fiandry* **sp. n.**, *L. fotsivava* **sp. n.**, *L. johary* **sp. n.**, *L. lavavava* **sp. n.**, *L. lohahela* **sp. n.**, *L. lucida* **sp. n.**, *L. malama* **sp. n.**, *L. mangabe* **sp. n.**, *L. manja* **sp. n.**, *L. manongarivo* **sp. n.**, *L. mayotte* **sp. n.**, *L. namana* **sp. n.**, *L. namoroka* **sp. n.**, *L. pilaka* **sp. n.**, *L. rabebe* **sp. n.**, *L. rabesoni* **sp. n.**, *L. ralipra* **sp. n.**, *L. sahamalaza* **sp. n.**, *L. tatsimo* **sp. n.**, *L. toeraniva* **sp. n.**, *L. tsingy* **sp. n.**, *L. variabilis* **sp. n.**, *L. vatovavy* **sp. n.**, *L. vitsy* **sp. n.**, and *L. zohy* **sp. n.** Most of these species are endemic to the region. Of the endemic species, two are restricted to the Comoros (*L. comajojo*, *L. mayotte*), 52 occur only in Madagascar, and two are shared by both islands (*L. fiandry*, *L. gracilis*). Three species in the *maxillosa* group, considered introduced to the region, are recorded from Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Reunion, and Seychelles. *Leptogenys stuhlmanni*, the only species in the *stuhlmanni* group, which was collected and first described from Moheli by Forel in 1907, has not been rediscovered and may have gone locally extinct.

**Key words:** taxonomy, *Leptogenys*, Malagasy region, Madagascar, micro-endemics, key to species, *attenuata* group, *fiandry* group, *incisa* group, *maxillosa* group, *saussurei* group, *stuhlmanni* group, *toeraniva* group, *truncatirostris* group

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