

## A new myrmicine ant genus from Malaysia with uncertain affinities (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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### Abstract

The new myrmicine genus *Tyrannomyrmex* is described based on a solitary worker from Negri Sembilam, Malaysia. The principal traits of the ant are mandibles with two teeth, inner modified setae on the ventral margin of mandibles, and mesosoma devoid of any groove or suture. This new genus somewhat resembles the *Adelomyrmex* genus-group (particularly *Baracidris* from Africa) especially because of the modified setae; the structure is different, however (cylindric in *Tyrannomyrmex*, spatulate in *Adelomyrmex* genus-group) and the similarity may be a convergence. The antennal and clypeal configuration, as well as tooth number, distance the genus from the adelomyrmecines. The genus is described from a single species, *T. rex* n. sp., from Malaysia. A discussion of the affinities with *Adelomyrmex* genus-group is presented.

**Key words:** Ants, Formicidae, Malaysia, *Tyrannomyrmex rex*

### Introduction

Although there have been advances in the systematics and phylogeny of some ant groups, we are still far from a complete understanding of the taxonomy and phylogeny of the ants (Brown, 2000). This is especially true for the subfamily Myrmicinae, for which there are no modern proposals for the internal classification of its component species. With a few exceptions, we do not know the limits or relationships of most of the proposed supraspecific taxa, thus unfortunately the genus described here cannot be placed reliably in a tribe or genus group. Although the taxon appears to share some attributes with the *Adelomyrmex* genus-group (Fernández, 2003), it does not seem to belong in the group.