



***Parvimyrm* gen. nov. belonging to the *Solenopsis* genus group from Vietnam (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae: Solenopsidini)**

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Abstract

The myrmicine ant genus *Parvimyrm* is newly established for a single new species found from N. Vietnam. The genus is undoubtedly placed in the *Solenopsis* genus group, and it is distinguished from the other genera belonging to the genus group by a combination of the following features: posteromedian portion of clypeus narrowly inserted between frontal lobes; masticatory margin of mandible with 5 distinct teeth; antenna 11-segmented, with a 2-segmented club; eye completely absent; promesonotum in profile almost flat or very weakly convex dorsally; metanotal groove relatively shallowly impressed dorsally; propodeum unarmed; propodeal spiracle small, situated a little behind the midlength of the sides of propodeum; metapleural gland large; petiolar peduncle with a small anteroventral process; postpetiole narrowly attached to the anteriormost end of gaster; sting poorly developed.

Key words: Vietnam, Formicidae, Solenopsidini, *Parvimyrm* gen. nov.

Introduction

The myrmicine ant tribe Solenopsidini was established by Forel (1893). In the earlier stage of their taxonomic history the genus *Solenopsis* Westwood and its supposed relatives were put together into Solenopsidini (e.g., Wheeler, 1922), or divided into two tribes, Solenopsidini and Pheidologetini (e.g., Emery, 1922). Ettershank (1966) conducted a genus-level classification of the ants related to *Solenopsis* and *Pheidologeton* Mayr, and proposed four genus groups: the *Pheidologeton* genus group, the *Monomorium* genus group, the *Megalomyrmex* genus group, and the *Solenopsis* genus group. The *Pheidologeton* genus group corresponded almost exactly to the tribe Pheidologetini in the sense of Emery (1922), and the remaining three genus groups were subdivisions of the tribe Solenopsidini in the sense of Emery (1922). Bolton (1987), however, recombined those three into a single unit with the exclusion of the genera *Tranopelta* and *Ochetomyrmex*. In the recent classification of the family Formicidae by Bolton (2003), the following two units were recognized in the tribe Solenopsidini: the *Solenopsis* genus group consisting of *Allomerus*, *Anillomyrm*, *Bondroitia*, *Carebarella*, *Diplomorium*, *Epelysidris*, *Megalomyrmex*, *Monomorium*, *Nothidris*, *Oxyepoecus*, *Phacota* and *Solenopsis*, and the *Carebara* genus group consisting of *Adlerzia*, *Afroxyidris*, *Carebara*, *Machomyrm*, *Mayriella*, *Oligomyrmex*, *Paedalgus*, *Pheidologeton* and *Tranopelta*. *Ochetomyrmex* was included in the tribe Formicoxenini. Fernández (2004) placed *Afroxyidris*, *Oligomyrmex* and *Paedalgus* as junior synonyms of *Carebara*.

In Tay Yen Tu National Park, Bac Giang Province, in the northern part of Vietnam, we collected a tiny ant species from a cheese bait trap buried ca. 10 cm underground. Although the ant species is undoubtedly a member of the *Solenopsis* genus group as defined by Bolton (1987, 2003), it does not fit into any current genus. In the present paper we establish a new genus, *Parvimyrm*, for the new species.