



Ants of the genus *Lordomyrma* Emery (2) The Japanese *L. azumai* (Santschi) and six new species from India, Viet Nam and the Philippines (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae)

ROBERT W. TAYLOR

Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, 2600, Australia.

Honorary Research Fellow, CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia.

E-mail: robert.taylor@anu.edu.au

Abstract

Lordomyrma is recorded for the first time from India and mainland southeast Asia. The Japanese *L. azumai* is reviewed and six new worker-based species described: *L. lakshmi* (Kerala State, India); *L. hmong* (Lao Cai Province, Vietnam); *L. diwata*, *L. emarginata* and *L. idianale* (Mt Isarog, Luzon, Philippines) and *L. limatula* (Leyte, Philippines). Gynes are characterized for *L. azumai*, *L. hmong* and *L. limatula*. All taxa are diagnosed, illustrated, and their affinities discussed.

Key words: Ants, Formicidae, *Lordomyrma*, *Stenamamma*, *Lasiomyrma*, taxonomy, new species, biogeography, Japan, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, India, Kerala, Viet Nam, Lao Cai, Philippines, Luzon, Leyte, Mt Isarog

Introduction

This is the second paper (following Taylor, 2009) of a project seeking to review and name the many known undescribed morphospecies reasonably considered taxonomically congeneric with the somewhat aberrant ant *Lordomyrma furcifera* Emery (type-species of *Lordomyrma* Emery 1897) and its more conservative putative relative *L. azumai* (Santschi). The latter is arguably the least morphologically derived known *Lordomyrma* species (Taylor, 2009) and its characteristics may thus be very generally considered archetypal for the genus. In this analysis *L. azumai* provides key morphotaxonomic focus and *L. furcifera* nomenclatural reference. Importantly, authors following Yasumatsu (1950) and Brown (1952) have universally considered *azumai* to be congeneric with *furcifera* - that is accepted here as a given. *L. furcifera* was illustrated by Taylor (2009, figs 7, 8) and *L. azumai* is depicted below (Figs 1–8).

L. azumai is reviewed here; the first *Lordomyrma* species known from India and Viet Nam are described, and four species from the Philippines, two of which were previously genetically studied and discussed by Lucky & Sarnat (2010), are formally named (see abstract for list). Workers of all species and gynes of *L. azumai*, *L. hmong* **sp. n.** and *L. limatula* **sp. n.** are illustrated with extended-focus color macrophotographs. The *Lordomyrma* world species list is raised from 25 to 33, a tally which provisionally includes the taxa *bhutanense* (Baroni Urbani), and *sinense* (Ma, Xu, Makio & DuBois), which were transferred from *Stenamamma* to *Lordomyrma* by Branstetter (2009). They are considered here to be *species inquirendae*, most conveniently assigned to *Lordomyrma* pending resolution of their true affinities (see below).

The record of an unidentified *Lordomyrma* species from Taiwan by Lin & Wu (2003) was not confirmed in Terayama's comprehensive monograph on the ants of Taiwan (2009).

Taylor (2009) indicated that the then-known Asian *Lordomyrma* morphospecies were basically similar in general conformation¹, with relatively low structural disparity (compared to some other faunas, notably those of

1. "Conformation" refers here to the general form and arrangement of the body tagmata appendages and limbs, including major processes like denticles, spines or crests, but not "superimposed" sculpturation, pilosity or color. Thus, *L. azumai* (Figs 1-4), *L. diwata* **sp. n.** (Figs 17-20) and *L. limatula* (Figs 29-32) have similar conformation despite their substantial differences in sculpture, pilosity and color, while *L. furcifera* (Taylor, 2009: figs 7,8) is very differently conformed.