

## Redefinition of the genus *Bannapone* and description of *B. cryptica* sp. nov. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Amblyoponinae)

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### Abstract

The ant genus *Bannapone* was established by Xu in 2000 and has been recognized as one of the rarest ant genera in the world. In the course of our careful examination of Asian species of *Stigmatomma*, we have found that the following *Stigmatomma* species share a unique morphological characteristic in mandibular dentition with *Bannapone mulanae* and *B. scrobiceps*: *Stigmatomma caliginosum* (Onoyama, 1999), *Stigmatomma fulvida* (Terayama, 1987), *S. pertinax* (Baroni Urbani, 1978), *S. zwaluwenburgi* Williams, 1946 and an unnamed species “*Stigmatomma* sp. eg-3”. In the present paper, we redefine *Bannapone*, describe “*Stigmatomma* sp. eg-3” as a new species of *Bannapone*, and transfer *S. caliginosum*, *S. fulvida*, *S. pertinax* and *S. zwaluwenburgi* Williams, 1946 to *Bannapone*.

**Key words:** *Bannapone*, *Stigmatomma*, new species, new combination, Vietnam

### Introduction

The ant genus *Bannapone* was established in the subfamily Ponerinae by Xu (2000) based on a single dealate queen (*B. mulanae* Xu, 2000) collected from a soil sample in a semi-evergreen monsoon forest of Yunnan Province, China. The genus was then assigned by Bolton (2003) to the subfamily Amblyoponinae. The genus has been recognized as one of the rarest ant genera in the world, and very recently Guénard *et al.* (2013) described a second species, *B. scrobiceps*, on the basis of two workers from Yunnan, and then modified the concept of the genus. In addition, K. Eguchi (one of the present authors) collected a colony of an amblyoponine species with peculiar mandibles in northern Vietnam, and recognized the dealate queen of the colony resembled that of *Bannapone mulanae*. However, Eguchi *et al.* (2014) did not refer to Guénard *et al.* (2013) and treated the species as “*Stigmatomma* sp. eg-3”, not a member of *Bannapone*.

In the course of our careful examination of Asian species of *Stigmatomma*, we have found that the following five *Stigmatomma* species shared a unique morphological characteristic in mandibular dentition with *Bannapone mulanae* and *B. scrobiceps*: *Stigmatomma caliginosum* (Onoyama, 1999), *S. fulvida* (Terayama, 1987), *S. pertinax* (Baroni Urbani, 1978), *S. zwaluwenburgi* Williams, 1946 and an unnamed species “*Stigmatomma* sp. eg-3”. In the present paper, we redefine *Bannapone*, describe “*Stigmatomma* sp. eg-3” as *Bannapone cryptica* sp. nov., and transfer *S. caliginosum*, *S. fulvida*, *S. pertinax* and *S. zwaluwenburgi* Williams, 1946 to *Bannapone*.

### Material and methods

Abbreviations of the specimen depositories are: VNMN, Vietnam National Museum of Nature, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam; MCZC, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge,