

Some ant records (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from the Middle East

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This paper reports on collections of ants made by David M. KING in Kuwait, Qatar and Turkey (cf. LUSH 2008). *Tapinoma festae* Emery, 1925 is raised to species status. Identifications were made by the author, mainly using the keys in AGOSTI & COLLINGWOOD (1987) and COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI (1996). Identifications of *Aphaenogaster ionia* and *Tapinoma festae* were made by the author and Cedric COLLINGWOOD, who also verified other identifications. Approximate coordinates provided have been extrapolated by the author.

Dolichoderinae

Tapinoma festae Emery, 1925 n. stat.

Syn.: *Tapinoma simrothi* subsp. *festae* Emery, 1925.

Material: Belek, Turkey, 36°50'N, 31°07'E, 6 m, 2.vi.2007. Figs 1-2.

Tapinoma festae was described from Greece, though this appears to be the first report of this species from Turkey. *T. festae* is here raised to species status because of clear differences between it and *T. simrothi*. *T. festae* can be distinguished from *T. simrothi* by its much shallower, broader than deep clypeal notch (Fig. 1) and more defined metanotal groove (Fig. 2). In comparison *T. simrothi* has a clypeal notch that is deeper than broad.

Myrmecinae

Aphaenogaster ionia Santschi, 1933

Material: Belek, Turkey, 36°50'N, 31°06'E, 7 m, 2.vi.2007.

Aphaenogaster ionia was described from Italy and has also been recorded from Greece (AGOSTI & COLLINGWOOD 1987). This appears to be the first report of this species from Turkey.

Messor caducus (Victor, 1839)

Material: Belek, Turkey, 36°50'N, 31°06'E, 1 m, 2.vi.2007.

M. caducus is distributed from Russia and the Caucasus to Greece, and had been collected before in Turkey (AGOSTI & COLLINGWOOD 1987).

Messor denticulatus Santschi, 1927

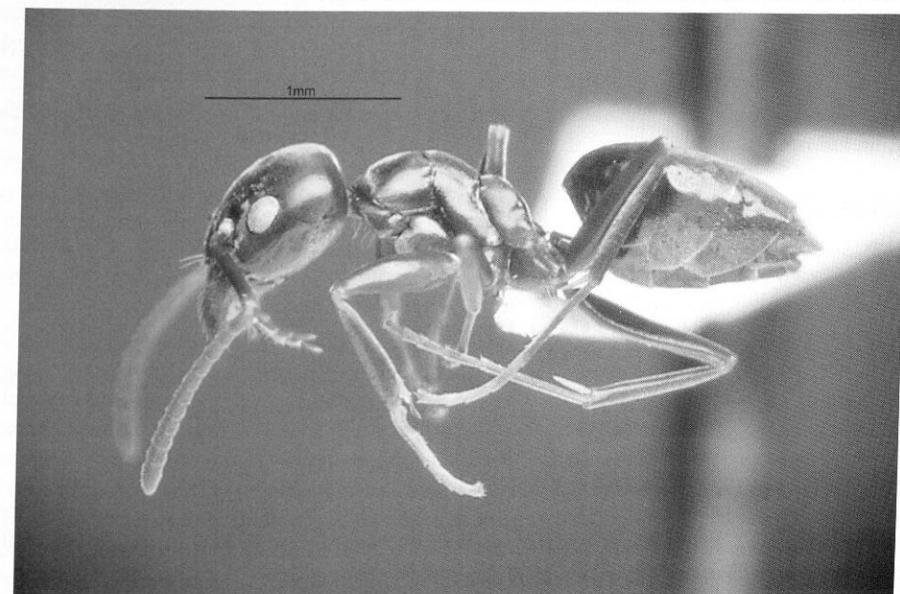
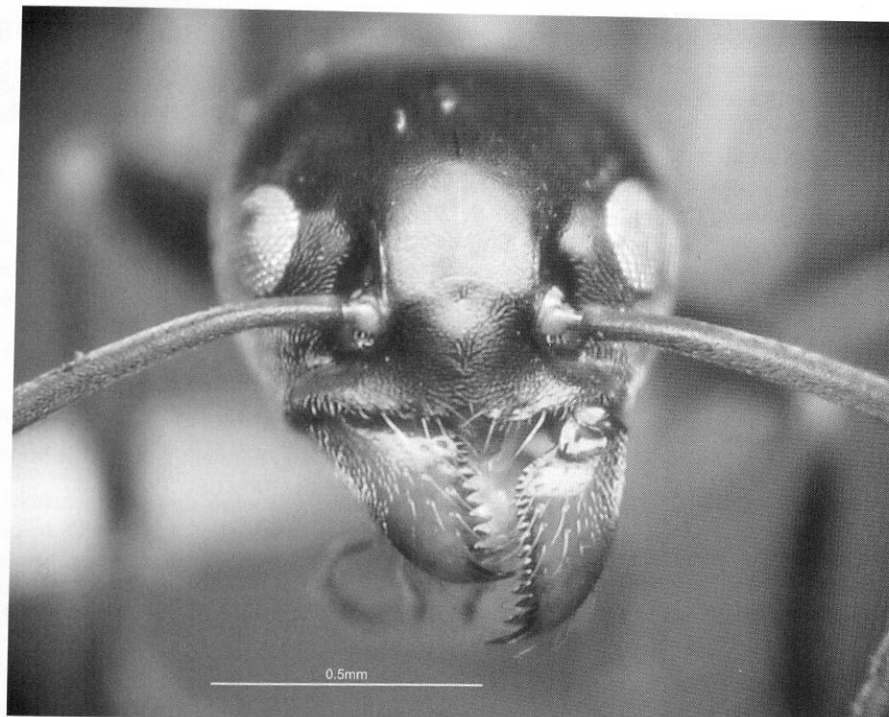
Material: Belek, Turkey, 36°50'N, 31°07'E, 6 m, 2.vi.2007.

Messor denticulatus is distributed from Turkestan to Greece, though this appears to be the first report of this species from Turkey.

Messor ebeninus Santschi, 1927

Material: Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, approx. 28°54'N, 48°11'E, 15.xii.2005, foraging at night.

Messor ebeninus is widely distributed throughout the Middle East and south-east Europe, and had been collected once before in Kuwait (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).



Figs 1-2. *Tapinoma festae* Emery, 1925 worker from Belek, Turkey. 1: head showing shallow clypeal notch, scale bar shown 0.5 mm; 2: specimen in profile, scale bar shown 1 mm. © Mike Lush.

Messor minor (André, 1883)

Material: Shuaiba Port, Kuwait, approx. 29°02'N, 48°09'E, 17.i.2003.

Messor minor is a southern European species that had been reported from the Asir highlands in Saudi Arabia (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996). This appears to be the first report of this species from Kuwait.

Monomorium tumaire Collingwood & Agosti, 1996

Material: Doha, Qatar, approx. 25°17'N, 51°30'E, 22.ix.2005.

Monomorium tumaire was described from Saudi Arabia and has also been recorded from UAE (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996). However, this appears to be the first report of this species from Qatar.

Pheidole pallidula (Nylander, 1849)

Material: Belek, Turkey, 36°50'N, 31°07'E, 6 m, 2.vi.2007.

Pheidole pallidula is widely distributed in southern Europe and northern parts of the Middle East, and had been collected before in Turkey (AGOSTI & COLLINGWOOD 1987).

Pheidole teneriffana Forel, 1893

Material: Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, approx. 28°54'N, 48°11'E, 18.ix.2005.

Pheidole teneriffana is a cosmopolitan tramp species that had been collected once before in Kuwait (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Formicinae*Cataglyphis nodus* (Brullé, 1832)

Material: Ephesus, Turkey, approx. 37°56'N, 27°20'E, 26.v.2002; Belek, Turkey, 36°51'N, 31°06'E, 1 m, 2.vi.2007.

Cataglyphis nodus is widely distributed in south-east Europe and northern parts of the Middle East, including Turkey (AGOSTI & COLLINGWOOD 1987).

References

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