

A TAXONOMIC STUDY OF THE ANT GENUS

Pachycondyla FROM CHINA

(Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Ponerinae)

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Abstract In this paper fifteen species of the ant genus *Pachycondyla* F. Smith from China were studied, with 2 new species described, 10 new combinations proposed, based on the modern concept of the genus, and 2 species first recorded in China.

Key words Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Pachycondyla*, Taxonomy, China

Since the establishment of the genus *Pachycondyla* by F. Smith in 1858, many other close genera or subgenera were erected during 1858 to 1950. Hölldobler *et al.* (1990) listed 14 generic or subgeneric names and treated them as junior synonyms of *Pachycondyla*. The living species of the genus are distributed widely over the Palaearctic, Oriental, Australian, Ethiopian, Nearctic, and Neotropical regions. Brown (1950, 1957, 1963), Wilson (1958), Kempf (1960), and Yasumatsu (1962) revised part of the species of the genus respectively. But taxonomic problems of some species remain unsolved.

Wheeler (1930–1931) recorded 8 species, 1 subspecies, and 1 variety in China. Besides, 3 species were described in Taiwan and Tibet by Forel (1912), Wheeler (1929), and Menozzi (1941). Yasumatsu (1962) revised the Chinese species of *Ectomomyrmex* and *Pachycondyla*, *E. javanus maternus* Forel, *E. denticeps* Wheeler, *P. japonica* Emery, *P. horni* Forel, and *P. tonkina* Santschi are junior synonyms of *E. javanus* Mayr. Tang *et al.* (1982, 1985, 1987) reported 3 species in Tibet, Zhejiang and Yunnan. Terayama (1990) recorded 5 species in Taiwan, he also found the worker caste of *Trachymesopus darwini* (Forel), and considered that *Belonopelta darwini* var. *indica* Forel was a synonym of *T. darwini*. From 1990 to 1993, I made an investigation on the Chinese ants in Southwestern China, 9 species of the genus were collected,

This paper is dedicated to Professor Zheng Zhemin (Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an), the famous Chinese orthopterologist, for the commemoration of his 40 years researching and teaching in Entomology.

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