

TWO NEW SPECIES OF THE ANT GENUS *Prenolepis* FROM YUNNAN CHINA (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Abstract Two new species of the ant genus *Prenolepis* Mayr are described in Yunnan, China, i. e. *P. nigriflagella* sp. n. and *P. magnocula* sp. n. A key based on worker caste is given to the known species of Southern and Eastern Asia.

Key words Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Prenolepis*, Taxonomy, Yunnan, China, S. & E. Asia

The ant genus *Prenolepis* was erected by Mayr in 1861. In this small genus, about 10 species are described in the Palaearctic, Oriental, Nearctic, and Neotropical regions (Morisita *et al.*, 1991). In early time, many species were placed in this genus (e. g. Mayr, 1870; Bingham, 1903). Later, most of them were transferred to *Paratrechina* Motschulsky (Wheeler, 1930–1931). Some species of the genus were revised by Brown (1955), Smith (1957), Wilson *et al.* (1967), Snelling (1976), and Trager (1984). To date, one species is known in Europe (Agosti *et al.*, 1987). Collingwood (1981) reported one species in Korea. Bingham (1903) recorded 10 species in India, Ceylon and Burma, however, these species may be transferred to *Paratrechina* except *P. melanogaster* Emery and *P. naoroji* Forel (Forel, 1894, 1912, 1913) described 2 species and 1 variety in Hongkong and Taiwan, i. e. *P. emmae* Forel, *P. formosae* Forel, and *P. minutula* var. *sauteri* Forel. Tang *et al.* (1985, 1987) reported 2 species in Zhejiang and Yunnan Provinces, i. e. *P. longicornis* (Latreille) and *P. yerburyi* Forel. According to the modern concept of *Prenolepis*, the above mentioned 5 species and variety known in China have been moved out of the genus. Recently, Tong *et al.* (1988) reported 1 species *P. melanogaster* Emery in Hunan Province. When we study the ant fauna of Southwestern China, 2 new species of *Prenolepis* are collected in Yunnan Province. The type specimens are