

A New Species of the Ant Genus *Cladomyrma* Wheeler (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Formicinae) from Thailand

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(Received 26 December 2012; Accepted 15 May 2013)

Cladomyrma sirindhornae sp. nov. is described from eastern Thailand, based on the minor and major workers, queen and male. The colonies examined here nested inside branches of the climbing plant *Sphenodesme involucrata* (Presl) Robins. (Verbenaceae).

Key Words: Formicidae, *Cladomyrma*, new species, *Sphenodesme involucrata*, Thailand.

Introduction

The ant genus *Cladomyrma* was described by Wheeler (1920), with *Aphomomyrmex hewitti* Wheeler, 1910 as the type species. Agosti (1991) placed this genus in the tribe Lasiini of the subfamily Formicinae. Agosti *et al.* (1999) revised the Oriental species to include 11 species in two species groups, all of which were distributed in Sundaland (Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra). Eguchi and Bui (2006) described the first continental Southeast Asian species, *Cladomyrma scopulosa* Eguchi and Bui, 2006 from northern Vietnam. Currently 12 nominal species of the genus are listed (Bolton, 2012), but Fujiwara *et al.* (2004) recorded an unidentified species from eastern Thailand, while comparing the surface chemicals of this ant and its host plant. An ecological feature of this genus is the myrmecophytic association with various taxa of plants, *i.e.*, the utilization of living pithy stems of trees and vines as nest sites (Agosti *et al.* 1999; Eguchi and Bui 2006).

Recently, we obtained a rich material of the species reported by Fujiwara *et al.* (2004) from eastern Thailand. After careful study we conclude that this species is new to science. In the present paper we describe it as a new species based on the queen, workers (major and minor), and male.

Materials and Methods

The study material was collected in eastern Thailand. Colonies of this new species were collected from branches of the climbing plant *Sphenodesme involucrata* (Presl) Robins. (Verbenaceae) (Fig. 5). The holotype, paratypes, and non-

types were pin-mounted. Most morphological observations were made with a Nikon SMZ1000 stereoscope. Multi-focused montage images were produced using Helicon Focus 4.75 Pro from a series of source images taken by a Canon EOS Kiss×4 digital camera attached to a Nikon ECLIPSE E600 microscope. Worker measurements, recorded to the nearest 0.01 mm, were made using an ocular micrometer.

The abbreviations used for the measurements and indices are as follows: CI – Cephalic index, $HW \times 100 / HL$; EI – Eye index, $EL \times 100 / HW$; EL – Eye length, maximum diameter of eye; HL – Maximum head length in full-face view, excluding mandibles, measured from midpoint of anterior clypeal margin to midpoint of occipital margin; HW – Maximum head width in full-face view, measured above eyes; ML – Mesosoma length measured from anteriormost point of pronotum to posteriormost point of metapleuron in profile; SI – Scape index, $SL \times 100 / HW$; and SL – Scape length excluding basal constriction and condylar bulb.

Abbreviations of the type depositories are as follows: AMK – Ant Museum, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand; BMNH – The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.; KKIC – Kasetsart Kampaengsaen Insect Collection, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand; SKYC – SKY Collection at Kagoshima University, Kagoshima, Japan; and THNHM – Natural History Museum of the National Science Museum, Pathum Thani, Thailand.

Cladomyrma sirindhornae sp. nov.

(Figs 1–4)

Type material. Holotype: queen from eastern Thailand, Chanthaburi Prov., Khlung Dist., Ban Ang-Ed Community Forest Development Project (Chaipattana Foundation),