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Papers Celebrating the 80th Birthday of Professor Andrzej Warchałowski

A third species of *Mayriella* from the Oriental Region (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Abstract. A new species of ant genus *Mayriella, M. warchalowskii* n. sp. (NE India), is described and illustrated. It is a third species reported from Southeast Asia west of Wallace's line.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Mayriella*, new species, India, Meghalaya.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

The ant genus *Mayriella* Forel, 1902 has been recently revised by Shattuck & Barnett (2007). They have recognized seven species: four from Australia, one found in New Guinea, and two species from Oriental region – *M. transfuga* Baroni Urbani, 1977 and *M. granulata* Dlussky & Radchenko, 1990. I describe a new species from Northeast India, Meghalaya, markedly different from the hitherto known Oriental species.

All measurements were made using a Nikon SMZ 1500 stereomicroscope at 100X magnification with ocular micrometer. Images were prepared using a Nikon SMZ 1500 stereomicroscope with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera and Auto-Montage Essentials (Syncroscopy, Division of Synoptics Ltd.) and CombineZM (Alan Hadley) software. Images were cleaned and adjusted using Adobe Photoshop.

Measurements and indices follow Shattuck & Barnett (2007). Descriptive terms concerning sculpture after Seifert (2003).

Mayriella warchalowskii **n. sp.**
(Figs. 1-3)

ETYMOLOGY

This species is dedicated to a prominent specialist on Chrysomelid beetles, professor ANDRZEJ WARCHAŁOWSKI, celebrating his 80th birthday.

1-2. *Mayriella warchalowskii*, holotype worker: 1 – body lateral, 2 – body dorsal

Material

Holotype worker, bearing printed label "NE INDIA, Meghalaya, Khasi Hills, Mawsynram 25°18'N 91°29'E, 800±100m P. Pacholátko 5-9.vi.2006", and red, printed label "HOLOTYPUS *Mayriella warchalowskii* des. M.L. Borowiec" (Deposited in the Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, Zoological Institute, University of Wroclaw, Wrocław, Poland).

Description

Sculpturing of antennal scrobe developed as transverse carinulation in front, turning into reticulum in posterior section; sculpturation on dorsal surface of mesosoma consisting of large, widely spaced foveae; interspaces between foveae on dorsum and lateral surface of mesosoma, as well as vertex wide and shining, but with fine rugoreticulum; similar rugoreticulum present also on, otherwise shining, dorsal and lateral surfaces of petiole and postpetiole; propodeal spines relatively long and thin; dorsal surface of petiole in lateral profile uniformly convex, without distinct dorsal and posterior faces and forming blunt angle with anterior face; anterior face of petiole in lateral view shallowly concave; in dorsal view, anterior and posterior regions of postpetiole are of the same width; body pilosity consisting of long, apically curved hairs present on dorsal surface of head, and short, appressed pubescence present on head, dorsal surface of mesosoma, postpetiole, gaster, and appendages.

Measurements of holotype worker: CI 1.02; HL 0.43; HTL 0.25; HW 0.44; ML 0.49; PW 0.28; SI 0.61; SL 0.27

3. *Mayriella warchalowskii*, holotype worker: front of head

Diagnosis

The new species can be easily separated from two other Oriental *Mayriella* by 1) the smooth, wide interspaces of foveae present on lateral and dorsal surfaces of pro-mesonotum, and 2) different shape of petiole. In both *M. transfuga* and *M. granulata* pro-mesonotal region is very heavily sculptured with foveae almost touching each other, and dorsal surface of petiole is meeting its anterior face at a sharp angle. *M. warchalowskii* can be considered somewhat similar to *M. sharpi* Shattuck & Barnett, 2007, but the new species lacks ventrally pointed eye characteristic of *sharpi*. Combination of large foveae with wide, shining interspaces on lateral surface of pro-mesonotal region, relatively low and long petiole, and lack of long hairs on mesosomal dorsum allows quick separation from other species of the genus.

Comments

Unfortunately, this species is described from only one specimen so nothing can be said about infraspecific variability of characters, which sometimes can be considerable, as in *M. abstinens* Forel, 1902 (Shattuck & Barnett 2007).

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