



A new species of *Tyrannomyrmex* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae) from India

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Abstract

A second species in the myrmicine ant genus *Tyrannomyrmex* Fernández, 2003, *T. dux* sp. n., based on a solitary worker from a leaf litter sample from Kerala state, southern India, is described. The original genus definition is slightly modified to include the description of this new species.

Key words: Ants, Kerala, *Tyrannomyrmex*, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

Despite extensive collecting and relatively well studied, at least at the generic level, taxonomy, new generic names continue to be introduced in the Formicidae (e. g., Cover & Deyrup 2007, Eguchi & Bui 2007, Fernández 2003, Fisher 2006), some of them based on solitary collections. In 2003 Fernández described a new genus and species, *Tyrannomyrmex rex*, from peninsular Malaysia. His description was based on a solitary worker from a leaf litter sample and the new genus could not be placed in any existing tribe. Since then, the only putative record known to the author has been a male, provisionally placed under *T. rex*, collected in the Philippines (Gary D. Alpert, pers. comm.). Here I present the description of a second species, from Kerala state in southern India, differing in some traits from Fernández's list of genus-level characteristics. The description is prepared in a manner similar to the one of *T. rex*, in order to allow comparisons.

Measurements and indices

All measurements were made using a Nikon SMZ 1500 stereomicroscope at 100X magnification with ocular micrometer. Descriptive terms concerning sculpture follow definitions by Seifert (2003). Images were prepared using a Nikon SMZ 1500 stereomicroscope with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera and Syncrosopy Auto-Montage Essentials software. Images were cleaned and adjusted using Adobe Photoshop.

HW	Head width: Maximum head width in full face view excluding the eyes.
HL	Head length: Maximum head length in full face view excluding the mandibles.
EL	Eye length: Maximum diameter of compound eye.
SL	Scape length: Maximum scape length measured without condyle and neck.
PrW	Pronotal width: Maximum width of pronotum in dorsal view.