



## New species of *Lordomyrma* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Southeast Asia and Fiji

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### Abstract

Two new species of *Lordomyrma* are described: *L. reticulata* **sp. nov.** from Malaysian Borneo and *L. vanua* **sp. nov.** from Fiji. The occurrence of the former in Borneo expands the range of this genus to include Southeast Asia and the description of a new Fijian *Lordomyrma* indicates that this genus remains to be fully sampled, even in regions where it is considered to be well known. Taken together, these two findings suggest that *Lordomyrma* occupies a less disjunct distribution and is more widely distributed than previously suspected. There is a need for further sampling to reveal both diversity and distribution in this cryptic genus.

**Key words:** Borneo, Fiji, Formicidae, Hymenoptera, Malaysia, Myrmicinae, new species, systematics, taxonomy

### Introduction

The ant genus *Lordomyrma* is known principally from Melanesia and Australia, with the one exception to this otherwise circumscribed distribution being a single species from Japan (Table 1) (Santschi, 1941; Brown, 1952; Bolton, *et al.* 2006). This distinctly disjunct pattern prompted the current investigation of the possible presence of *Lordomyrma* in the intervening area or, alternatively, an explanation of its absence in Southeast Asia. Given the success of this genus on the western Pacific islands of Fiji, New Caledonia and New Guinea (Kugler, 1994; Sarnat, 2006; Wheeler, 1919), it was also expected to occur in Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan.

The published range of this genus belies the fact that dozens of undescribed *Lordomyrma* species currently await description, from countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and New Caledonia (B. Bolton, pers. comm. and R.W. Taylor, in prep.). Although *Lordomyrma* had, in fact, been reported from Borneo (Brühl, *et al.*, 1998), prior to this publication, no *Lordomyrma* had been described from the area bounded by New Guinea to the south and Japan to the north (Fig. 1). One of the species described here, *Lordomyrma reticulata* **sp. nov.**, offers the first confirmed record of this genus in Southeast Asia.

The description of *L. reticulata* from Borneo expands the confirmed range limits of *Lordomyrma* and reduces the disjunction between northern and southern locality records. Also described in this paper is *L. vanua* **sp. nov.** from Fiji, an area where *Lordomyrma* is particularly well sampled (Sarnat, 2006). These two new species descriptions, one from an area previously considered to lack *Lordomyrma*, and one from a region where the genus is regarded as well known, emphasize that this genus has yet to be fully sampled throughout its range. It should not be surprising to learn that additional *Lordomyrma* remain to be described, as members of the genus are small and inconspicuous, maintain colonies of modest size and tend to be shy and retiring when disturbed. Most species are denizens of the leaf litter in wet forest habitat, but some are known to nest and forage arboreally (Sarnat, 2006). It is our hope that this publication will encourage further examination and revision of this biogeographically interesting ant genus.