



***Opomyrma hungvuong*, a new genus and species of ant related to *Apomyrma* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Amblyoponinae)**

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Abstract

The amblyoponine genus *Opomyrma* is newly established for a single new species, *O. hungvuong*, found from central Vietnam. The genus is morphologically very close to the genus *Apomyrma* known from the Afrotropical region, but is well distinguished from the latter by a combination of the following features in the worker of the former: preoccipital carina complete, almost encircling the head slightly before its posterior margin; clypeus posteriorly margined with a distinct continuous carina; petiole without a distinct anterior peduncle; abdominal segment III longer than IV, V and VI; segment VII longest among the segments III-VII; anteriormost part of abdominal sternite III produced anteriorly to the same level as the anteriormost part of the tergite III; abdominal segment IV with differentiated presternite. The new genus is tentatively assigned to the subfamily Amblyoponinae.

Key words: Vietnam, Formicidae, Amblyoponinae, *Apomyrma*, *Opomyrma* gen.n.

Introduction

During the course of our study of Vietnamese ants we found a bizarre ant species that is new to science and can be identified as belonging to the subfamily Apomyrminae endemic to the Afrotropical Region based on the key and subfamily definition provided by Bolton (1994, 2003). Although the species shares some characteristics with the single species (and the single genus) of the subfamily (*Apomyrma stygia* Brown, Gotwald and Levieux, 1971), we have also found important differences that justify the creation of a new genus for the species. The new genus, *Opomyrma*, described here based on two workers collected from central Vietnam by one of us (TVB), is tentatively assigned to the subfamily Amblyoponinae as redefined by Saux *et al.* (2004) to include *Apomyrma* (but see Discussion for the status of the tribe Apomyrmini, and of the subfamilies Apomyrminae and Amblyoponinae).

Methods

Abbreviations of public institutions are as follows: IEBR, Entomological Collection of the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi, Vietnam; KMNH, Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History and Human History, Kitakyushu, Japan.