



## First record of the genus *Myrmedonota* Cameron (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) from North America, with descriptions of two new species

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### Abstract

The lomechusine genus *Myrmedonota* Cameron is recorded from North America for the first time. *Myrmedonota* is diagnosed, and two new species, *M. aidani* Maruyama & Klimaszewski, **sp. nov.**, and *M. lewisi* Maruyama & Klimaszewski, **sp. nov.**, are described and illustrated. Bionomical information is provided for both new species.

**Key words:** Aleocharinae, Lomechusini, *Myrmedonota*, Nearctic, myrmecophily

### Introduction

The genus *Myrmedonota* Cameron, 1920 (tribe Lomechusini Fleming, subtribe Myrmedoniina Thomson) is represented by 11 species from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Papua-New Guinea. According to the original description of the type species of *Myrmedonota*, *M. cingulata* Cameron, 1920, the type series were collected with small ants, so it is presumed to be a myrmecophile. Though bionomics of most other species are unknown, one species is also reported as a myrmecophile associated with *Papyrius nitidus* (Mayr, 1862) (Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Dolichoderinae) (Kistner 2003), and another species is known as a termitophile associated with *Schedorhinotermes* sp. (Isoptera, Rhinotermitidae) (Bourguignon & Roisin 2006).

The original diagnosis of *Myrmedonota* was not well defined (Cameron 1920), and the description is not useful for discriminating it from the other lomechusine genera. Probably, the affiliations of most species have been based on the similarities of their facies to the type species and the small body size in comparison to the other lomechusine members. Bourguignon and Roisin (2006) mentioned some diagnostic features of the genus, but they are rather general features that are shared by other lomechusine genera, e.g., *Myrmoecia* Mulsant & Rey, 1873, *Pella* Stephens, 1835, and *Zyras* Stephens, 1835 (s. lat.).

Recently, we found two undescribed species of the Lomechusini in the United States. After close examination of the specimens and comparison with the type species, they are found to be members of the genus *Myrmedonota*. In this paper, we redefine the genus based on the type species and new material from North America, present external and internal illustrations of diagnostic structures for the first time, describe the new species and provide the bionomical information.