



## Two new dolichoderine ant genera from Madagascar: *Aptinoma* gen. n. and *Ravavy* gen. n. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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### Abstract

The Malagasy dolichoderine ant genera *Aptinoma* and *Ravavy* and the following species are newly described: *Aptinoma mangabe* **sp. n.** (type species), *Aptinoma antongil* **sp. n.**, and *Ravavy miafina* **sp. n.** (type species). A key to the five dolichoderine genera of the Malagasy region based on workers is presented.

**Key words:** Afrotropical, Malagasy endemics, arthropods, ants, *Ravavy*, *Aptinoma*, taxonomy, Dolichoderinae

### Introduction

Field collecting in Madagascar over the last 15 years has provided a comprehensive overview of ants and other arthropods from the island (Fisher 2005, Fisher & Penny 2008). Fieldwork included sampling from the full range of vegetation, climate, elevation, and geological substrates found across Madagascar. Diverse collecting methods were used including leaf litter sifting, light traps, Malaise traps, pitfall traps, and manual hand collecting.

These efforts have revealed an estimated 1,000 new ant species. However, a number of these new taxa cannot be placed in existing genera. A separate study on the phylogenetic relationships within the Dolichoderinae provided the opportunity to evaluate the Malagasy dolichoderine lineages (Ward, Brady, Fisher & Schultz 2009). The phylogenetic study revealed two new lineages described here as *Aptinoma* and *Ravavy*. *Ravavy* is sister to *Loweriella*, within a newly defined Bothriomyrmecini, but at considerable depth within the tree, justifying its treatment as a separate genus. *Aptinoma* was recovered as sister to *Tapinoma*, within the tribe Tapinomini, again at considerable depth in the tree, making it unlikely that *Tapinoma* is paraphyletic with respect to *Aptinoma*. The purpose of this paper is to provide names for these two new lineages and describe the species that occur in Madagascar.

### Methods

This revision is primarily based on arthropod surveys carried out in Madagascar from 1992 to 2008 that included over 6,000 leaf litter samples, 4,000 pitfall traps, and 9,000 additional hand collecting events (see Fisher 2005 for additional details).

Specimens of *Aptinoma* and *Ravavy* were examined from the following collections:

CASC      California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA, USA

PSWC      P. S. Ward Collection, University of California at Davis, CA, USA