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Another new trap-jaw ant (Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Odontomachus* LATREILLE, 1804) from the Philippines

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Abstract: A new trap-jaw ant species, *Odontomachus pangantihoni* nov.sp., is described from the island of Panay, Philippines. It belongs to the *O. infandus* species group and is similar to *O. ferminae* GENERAL, 2018 by light body colour.

Key words: Formicidae, Ponerinae, *Odontomachus*, new species, endemic, Panay.

Introduction

Odontomachus LATREILLE, 1804 is a genus of the Ponerinae (BOLTON 2003) and contains 73 extant and three valid fossil species (ANTWEB 2023). It is widely distributed in tropical regions, with highest species numbers in the Neotropics and Malesia (see BROWN 1976). BROWN (1976) did a worldwide classification. SORGER & ZETTEL (2011) treated the species of the Philippines; one species was added later (GENERAL 2018). In this study we describe another species of the *O. infandus* species group from the island of Panay.

Material and methods

The description of the new species is based on ten mounted specimens.

Measurements and indices:

TL Total length. Length of entire ant measured in dorsal view with head stretched out, from anterior margin of mandible to apex of abdomen.

HL Head length. Maximum length of head in full-face view, excluding mandibles, measured from anterior-most point of clypeal margin to posterior-most point of head vertex, parallel to midline.

HW Head width. Maximum width of head in full-face view.

CI Cephalic index. $HW / HL \times 100$.

MdL Mandible length. Maximum length of mandible in frontal view of head measured from mandibular insertion to apex.

MdI Mandible index. $MdL / HL \times 100$.

SL Scape length. Maximum length of antennal scape in dorsal view excluding basal constriction.

SI Scape index. $SL / HW \times 100$.

MsL Mesosoma length. Maximum length of mesosoma, measured in lateral view, diagonal from cervical shield to posterolateral propodeal edge.

PnW Pronotum width. Maximum width of pronotum in dorsal view.

PtH Petiole height. Maximum height of petiole, measured in lateral view as a straight line from bottom edge of petiole, perpendicular to petiolar apex.

PtL Petiole length. Measured in lateral view along dor-sal outline of petiole from small anteroapical tooth to apex.

PtW Petiole width. Maximum width of petiole in dorsal view.

All measurements are in millimetres. For measurements of petiole see SORGER & ZETTEL (2011: fig. 2). Terms for head structures and mandibular dentition follow BROWN (1976).

Photographs were taken with a Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1-5× Macro lens mounted on a Canon Eos 7D camera. Images were processed with Helicon Focus 8.2.3 stacking software and Adobe Photoshop 2023.

Taxonomy

Odontomachus pangantihoni nov.sp. (Figs 1-4)

Type material: Holotype (worker) and paratypes (6 workers) from Philippines, Panay Island, Aklan Province, Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park, Buruanga River area, N 11°46.9', E 121°58.4', 420 m a.s.l., Feb. 25, leg. C. V. Pangantihon; paratypes (3 workers), nearby locality, Sibaliw Station, N 11°49.3', E 121°57.9', 430 m a.s.l., same date and collector. The holotype will be deposited in the Philippine National Museum, paratypes in the first author's collection.

Etymology. Named in honour of Clister V. Pangantihon who discovered this species.

Description of worker. Measurements: holotype: TL 14.4, HW 2.32, HL 3.35, CI 69, MdL 2.10, Mdi 63, SL 3.41, SI 147, MsL 4.57, PnW 1.32, PtH 1.52, PtL 1.60, PtW 0.50. Paratypes (n = 9): TL ca. 13.8–16.4, HW 2.23–2.54, HL 3.33–3.68, CI 65–69, MdL 1.96–2.25, Mdi 57–62, SL 3.31–3.68, SI 142–152, MsL 4.65–5.18, PnW 1.32–1.55.

Structures. Large and slender species with long antennae and legs (Fig. 3). Head (Fig. 1) long, comparatively slender, with distinct temporal prominences. Mandibles long, with long and sharp apical and subapical teeth, and a short intercalary tooth between them; the two most distal denticles slightly larger than the basal ones. Four maxillary and four labial palp segments. Striation on head extending from frontal lobes to ocular ridge, posterior of head smooth and shiny. Pronotum (Fig. 2) with fine, fingerprint-like striation, closed circles and elongated loops clearly visible in dorsal view; posterolateral parts transversely striate. Mesosoma depressed. Mesopleuron (Fig. 4) completely striate; in some specimens a small shiny area in middle, but striation still recognizable. Petiole (Fig. 3) high, without false peduncle anteriorly, with long apical spine; ventral process long and rather slender, its apex narrowly rounded; petiolar spine long, its anterior face straight, its posterior face slightly convex.

Pilosity (Fig. 3). Pubescence sparse, short.

Colour (Fig. 3). Body uniformly pale brownish orange. Legs and antennae light yellow.



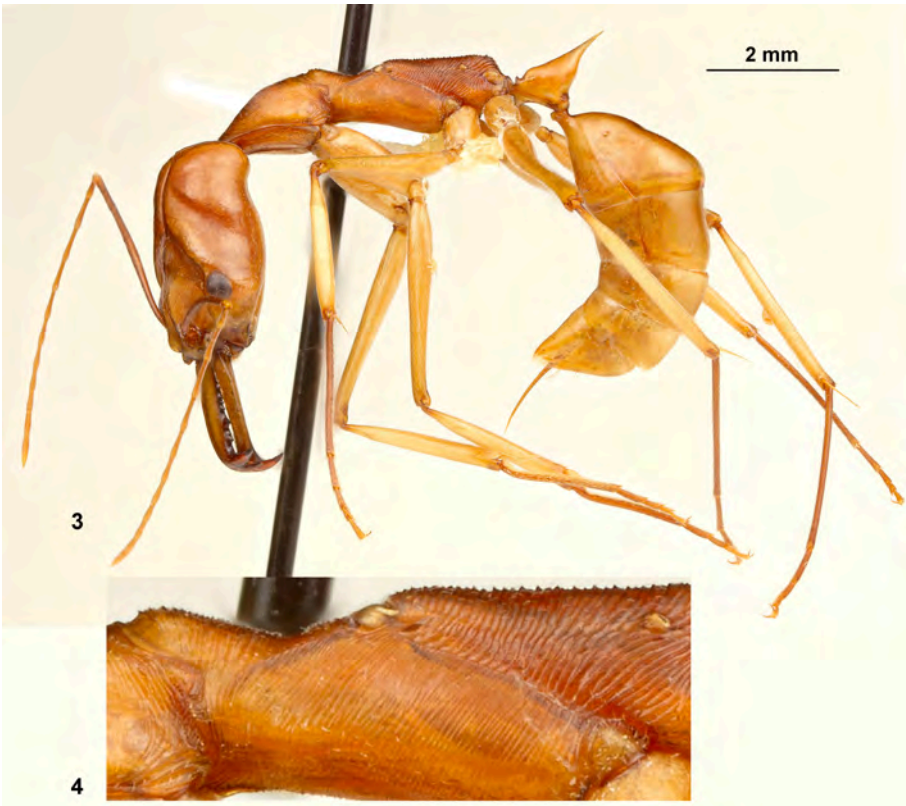
Figs 1–2. *Odontomachus pangantihoni* nov.sp., paratype: (1) head, frontal view; (2) mesosoma and petiole, dorsal view.

Distribution. Endemic to the Philippines and only known from the island of Panay (Aklan Province).

Notes. *Odontomachus pangantihoni* nov.sp. is a member of the *O. infandus* species group based on the diagnostic characters listed by SORGER & ZETTEL (2011). It is most similar to *O. ferminae* GENERAL, 2018 from Sibuyan Island by light body colour and smooth posterior part of the head (compare GENERAL 2018), but differs strongly in an elongate-ovate, fingerprint-like striation of the pronotum (transversely striate in *O. ferminae*) and a completely striate mesopleuron (almost completely smooth and shiny in *O. ferminae*). *Odontomachus banksi* FOREL, 1910 from Luzon Island, which also possesses a yellowish, posteriorly smooth head, can be easily distinguished by larger size, dark mesosoma, petiole and gaster, and by the relatively long and dense pilosity of the

mesosoma. An unnamed species from Mindanao (sp. 2 in SORGER & ZETTEL 2011) differs by short scape (SI = 1.2).

The Philippine species of the *O. infandus* species group are endemic in the country, and most species have a parapatric distribution; only South Luzon (Bicol Region) is probably inhabited by three species (species rank of sp. 1 of SORGER & ZETTEL 2011 unconfirmed). From Panay, *Odontomachus philippinus* EMERY, 1893 has been recorded from the more eastern province of Capiz (SORGER & ZETTEL 2011). This species, which also occurs on the islands of Negros and Siquijor, differs clearly from *O. pangantihoni* nov.sp. by a brown mesosoma (although slightly variable between populations of the three islands), a transverse to slightly curved striation of the pronotum, a predominantly shiny and smooth mesopleuron, and a slightly stouter ventral process of the petiole. It is presently unknown whether the two species have an overlapping distribution on Panay.



Figs 3–4. *Odontomachus pangantihoni* nov.sp., paratype: (3) body, lateral view; (4) mesopleuron.

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Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Schnappkieferameise, *Odontomachus pangantihoni* nov.sp., wird von der philippinischen Insel Panay beschrieben. Sie gehört in die *O. infandus*-Artengruppe und ist *O. ferminae* GENERAL, 2018 durch die helle Körperfärbung ähnlich.

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