

Systematics of the worker ants collected from the premises of Kelaniya University

Ants (Order: Hymenoptera; Family: Formicidae) are widely distributed and widely distributed and ecologically important insects but little is known about the systematics of Sri Lankan ants. Two hundred and eighty six samples of worker ants were collected by baited trap method and manually from bare ground, leaf litter, buildings, bushes, trees and grass in the premises of Kelaniya university and the samples were preserved in 85% ethanol. A light microscopic study of the morphology and systematics of the ants in each sample was carried out. Ants belong to the Dolichoderinae, Formicinae, Myrmicinae, Pseudomyrmecine and Ponerinae subfamilies were observed in this collection. *Technomyrmex* Mayr and *Tapinoma melanocephalum* Fabricius were present among the dolichoderines whereas *Oecophylla smaragdina* Fabricius, *Camponotus* Mayr, *Paratrechina* Motchoulsky, *Paratrechiina longicornis* Latrielle, *Anoplolepis* Santschi, *A. gracilipes* Emery, and *Polyrhachis* Swains and Shuck were found among the formicines. Among the mymicines *Monomorium* Mayr, *M. pharonis* L., *M. destructor* (Jerdon), *M. floricola* (Jerdon), *Pheidologeton* Mayr, *P. diversus* Fred Smith, *Crematogaster* Lund, *Pheidole*

Westwood, *P. spathifera* Forel, *Meranoplus* Smith, *M. bicolour* Guerin, *Solenopsis geminate* Fabricius, *Tetraoponera rufonigra* Jerdon was the only species present among the Pseudomyrmecines. The ponerines *Odontomachus* Latrielle, *Odontomachus simillimus* Fred Smith, and *Diacamma* Mayr were also identified in the collection.