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### The genus *Liometopum* in Eurasia: past and present distribution

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#### Abstract

As known, the genus *Liometopum* Mayr, 1861 includes 7 extant and more than 10 fossil species (Bolton, 2015). The extant species of the genus, as a rule, are not large in size, not isolated in distribution and are distributed in the Holarctic and Oriental region. North American species of the genus (*L. apiculatum* Mayr, 1870, *L. occidentale* Emery, 1895 and *L. luctuosum* Wheeler, 1905) are sympatric with different ecological preferences and will never occur together (Dubovikoff et al., 2013). The oldest known fossil species of the genus (*L. oligocenicum* Wheeler, 1915) is known from Baltic amber (Late Eocene). The type specimen of this species seems to be lost so that the establishment of the taxonomic status of this species is not possible (Dubovikoff, 2012). The highest species diversity in the genus *Liometopum* was in the Miocene of Eurasia (8 species, including the three new ones). From the Oligocene of North America, 2 species (*L. miocenicum* Carpenter, 1930 and *L. scudderi* Carpenter, 1930) are only known.

The study of material from the previously undescribed Miocene fauna of Europe and Japan, as well as descriptions and types of fossil species from Eurasia and North America, have enabled us to solve a number of taxonomic problems and we propose new synonymy for a number of Eurasian *Liometopum* species.

**Key words:** Ants, *Liometopum*, fossils, distribution, Eurasia.

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