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***Tetraponera modesta*, a new pseudomyrmecine ant record (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) for Sri Lanka**

R.K.S. Dias¹, W.S. Udayakantha¹, A. Thotagamuwa^{1,2} & S.A. Akbar³¹Department of Zoology and Environmental Management, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

E-mail: rksdias@kln.ac.lk

²Graham Centre, Charles Sturt University, NSW, Australia, 2650³Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Entomology Division, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir–190001, India.

E-mail: kingakbarali@gmail.com

Dias, R.K.S., Udayakantha, W.S., Thotagamuwa, A. & Akbar, S.A. *Tetraponera modesta*, a new pseudomyrmecine ant record (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) for Sri Lanka. Summary. *Tetraponera modesta* (F. Smith, 1860) is herewith recorded for the first time from Sri Lanka. With this addition number of known Sri Lankan species for the genus becomes five. The other four species are *T. allaborans* (Walker, 1859), *T. nigra* (Jerdon, 1851), *T. nitida* (Smith, 1860), and *T. rufonigra* (Jerdon, 1851). Among the known regional species, *T. modesta* is easily separable by smaller size, yellow to orange brown colouration of the head and mesosoma, and relatively slender petiole.

Key words: ants, new record, Pseudomyrmecinae, Sri Lanka, *Tetraponera*.

Діас, Р.К.С., Удааяканта, В.С., Тотагамува, А. і Акбар, С.А. *Tetraponera modesta*, перша знахідка виду мурашки-псевдомірміцини (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) на Шрі-Ланці. Резюме. Уперше з Шрі-Ланки зареєстровано *Tetraponera modesta* (Ф. Сміт, 1860). Завдяки цьому кількість відомих з Шрі-Ланки видів роду сягає п'яти. Інші чотири види - *Tetraponera allaborans* (Walker, 1859), *T. nigra* (Jerdon, 1851), *T. nitida* (Smith, 1860) і *T. rufonigra* (Jerdon, 1851). Серед відомих рз регіону видів *T. modesta* легко відрізняється меншими розмірами, жовтим до жовтогарячо-коричневого забарвленням голови та мезосоми та відносно тонким стебельцем.

Key words: мурашки, нові знахідки, Pseudomyrmecinae, Шрі-Ланка, *Tetraponera*.

Introduction

The arboreal ant genus *Tetraponera* consists of ants with large eyes and slender bodies. These mostly inhabit hollow structures like thorns, and branches, of plants known as myrmecophytes (Young et al., 1996); share mutualistic relationships with those plants as well as other organisms (Speight et al., 2008). The genus is currently represented by 93 valid extant species, 16 valid subspecies and 7 valid fossil species (AntCat, 2020), distributed throughout the Paleotropics (Ward, 2001). Among the recent published work on the genus, Ward (2001, 2006, 2009) is the most noteworthy and include comprehensive revisions with detailing of most of the formal species groups. Regional species keys of Xu & Chai, (2004) for China; Terayama (2009) for Taiwan; Bharti & Akbar (2014) for India are also pertinent to the present study. In Sri Lanka several papers have detailed Systematics and ecological behaviour of pseudomyrmecine ants (Dias, 2014; Dias & Rajapaksa, 2016; Dias & Fernando, 2017). Four species belonging

to the genus *Tetraponera* are known from Sri Lanka; *Tetraponera allaborans* (Walker, 1859), *Tetraponera nigra* (Jerdon, 1851), *Tetraponera nitida* (Smith, 1860), and *Tetraponera rufonigra* (Jerdon, 1851). We herewith add *Tetraponera modesta* (F. Smith, 1860) to the species list of the country, increasing the number of known species to five. A brief species diagnosis and collection locality of the species is provided.

Material and methods

Specimens collected from colonies were preserved in 85% ethanol and dry mounted. Adult morphology of dry-mounted specimens was examined under Zeiss STEMI 305 stereo-microscope. Terminology and abbreviations are given according to Ward (2001) except for the total length (TL). Total length (TL = total body length from anterior extremity of the clypeus to tip of the gaster), Head length (HL = midline length of head from the posterior margin