

CONTRIBUTION TO THE MYRMECOFAUNA (FORMICIDAE, HYMENOPTERA) OF GREECE. I. Z. Petrov¹, A. Legakis², ¹Institute of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, 11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia, ²Zoological Museum, Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Athens, Panepistimioupolis, 157 84 Athens, Greece.

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The myrmecofauna of Greece, especially of its northern part is one of the least known ant faunas of Europe. Legakis (1983) in an article on the ants of Zagori region, concluded that „the family Formicidae – ants- has been very little studied in Greece”.

Agosti and Collingwood (1987a), using various sources of data, reported 174 ant species for central and northern Greece, which can be considered low if we take into account the geographical position of Greece between Europe, Asia and Africa, and a high level of endemism apparent in other groups.

Legakis (1966, in prep.) presented an annotated list of ants of Greece, and mentioned 268 taxa of *Formicidae*.

Anyhow, it seemed interesting to present ant species collected at the small village Metamorfofosis, situated in the Cassandra bay, about 90 km southeast of Thessaloniki. Namely, during a short vacation period (10-20 August 1994) spent, by the senior author, at the above mentioned village, some ant species were collected. It was done by accidental findings, and searching for potential nests along the sea shore, as well as in the village and its vicinity. The whole area in which ants were collected, covered about 1 sq. km.

Identification was carried out by using, first of all, Agosti and Collingwood (1987b) keys, but also those of Bernard (1968), Kutter (1977) and Collingwood (1978, 1979). Data reported by Baroni Urbani (1971), Agosti and Collingwood (1987a) were also used.

Collected material consists of 9 genera and 12 species belonging to 3 subfamilies (Myrmicinae, Dolichoderinae, Formicinae) (Tab. 1).

Table 1. List of ant species (Formicidae) registered at Metamorfofosis (Greece) (August 1994)

Subfamily Myrmicinae

Messor capitatus (Latreille) 1798
Pheidole megacephala (Fabricius) 1793
Crematogaster schmidtii (Mayr) 1852
Cardiocondyla elegans Emery 1869

Subfamily Dolichoderinae

Dolichoderus quadripunctatus (L.) 1771
Bothriomyrmex meridionalis (Roger) 1863

Subfamily Formicinae

Acantholepis melas Emery 1915
Camponotus gestroi Emery 1878
C. ionius Emery 1925
C. truncatus (Spinola) 1808
Camponotus sp.
Cataglyphis nodus (Brullé) 1832

Messor capitatus (Latreille) 1798 (Tab. 1) is a new species for the myrmecofauna of northern Greece. Before this finding, this species was registered in the myrmecofauna of the Balkans only in former Yugoslavia (Agosti and Collingwood 1987a, Petrov and Collingwood 1992) and in the Peloponnese (Collingwood in litt.), and in the island of Rodos (southern Aegean) (Menozzi 1936).

Pheidole megacephala (Fabricius) 1793 (Tab. 1) is a new species for the myrmecofauna of mainland Greece. In a provisional list of the Blakan ants (Agosti and Collingwood 1987a), this species was indicated as expected one for the myrmecofauna of the Blakans. Petrov found it on the rocky sea shore at Milna (Isle of Brač, Croatia) and it was reported for the myrmecofauna of former Yugoslavia (Petrov and Collingwood 1992), and from the Greek island of Crete and Karpathos (Collingwood 1993, and in litt.). In northern Greece it was found on the sand at the sea shore, near to a rocky wall, which surrounded a house at the village of Metamorfofosis.

Crematogaster schmidtii Forel 1896 (Tab. 1) was registered in the Greek myrmecofauna by several authors (see Legakis 1996).

Cardiocondyla elegans Emery 1869 (Tab. 1) is a new species for the myrmecofauna of northern Greece too. This species was registered on the Balkans in the myrmecofauna of former Yugoslavia (Zimmermann 1934, Agosti and Collingwood 1987a, Petrov and Collingwood 1992) and in the myrmecofauna of Turkey (Agosti and Collingwood 1987a). In the myrmecofauna of central and insular Greece it was registered by several authors (see Legakis 1996 and Collingwood 1993, and in litt.).

From the subfamily Dolichoderinae, the species *Dolichoderus quadripunctatus* (L., 1771) was already registered in the myrmecofauna of Greece (Forel 1886, Sant-schi 1926, Legakis 1983, Agosti and Collingwood 1987a).

Bothriomyrmex meridionalis (Roger) 1863 is another new species for the myrmecofauna of northern Greece. This species was already mentioned for the myrmecofauna of Bulgaria and former Yugoslavia (Agosti and Collingwood 1987a), but also for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Sutomore, Montenegro seaside), (Petrov 1993), and for the southern Greece (Forel 1991).

From the subfamily Formicinae the species: *Acantholepis melas* Emery 1915, *Camponotus gestroi* Emery 1879, *C. ionius* Emery 1925, *C. truncatus* (Spinola, 1808), and *Cataglyphis nodus* (Brulle, 1832) (Tab. 1) were already registered for the myrmecofauna of Greece by several authors (see Legakis 1996).

However, *C. gestroi* is a first record in the myrmecofauna of northern Greece.

Together with these four species for the myrmecofauna of northern Greece, the list of Agosti and Collingwood (1987a) is extended, and consists of 178 ant species for central and northern Greece.

One specimen belonging to the genus *Camponotus* was found on a concrete wall at the sea shore. Only one worker was found. Although the key of Agosti and Collingwood (1987b), which includes Balkan ants, was used together with other mentioned keys, the species could not be identified. It does not fit to any of, up till now, known species of the genus *Camponotus*. Therefore its characters are presented here.

Head black, considerably longer than wide. Fine punctured and shiny. Clypeus projecting as a subrectangular plate forward, beyond the genal margin. Eyes large, without hairs, pointed anterodorsally. Entire head covered with bristle-like hairs. Occipital hairs long, extending round lateral margin of the head to the point of joint of mandibles with head. Gulla with bristle-like hairs too.

Scapus long, longer than the head length, covered with fine pubescence. Entire antennae brownish.

Entire alitrunk orange yellow and shiny. Dorsum of propodeum smoothly rounding into declivitous caudal part. Pronotum with bristle-like hairs, too, but somewhat shorter.

Petiolus nodiform, orange yellow, with four bristle-like hairs pointed dorsolaterally.

Gaster finely punctured, shiny, with fine pubescence. Dorsally, first tergite, and the 2/3 of the second tergite orange

yellow. Laterally, the first tergite with a brownish spot, and the second tergite, laterally black. The rest of tergites, dorsally black. All tergites, and the last sternite with long bristle-like hairs.

Coxae and femora orange yellow. The rest of legs reddish-brown. Coxae of front and middle legs with a row of somewhat shorter bristle-like hairs, which are projecting on the flexor surface

The length of the specimen was 8 mm.

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