


The genus *Carebara* is revised for the Malagasy region, and based on the examination of over 10,000 specimens, twenty-three species are recognized. Twenty one of these are described as new (*C. bara* sp. n., *C. berivelo* sp. n., *C. betsi* sp. n., *C. creolei* sp. n., *C. demeter* sp. n., *C. dota* sp. n., *C. hainteny* sp. n., *C. hiragasy* sp. n., *C. jajoby* sp. n., *C. kabosy* sp. n., *C. lova* sp. n., *C. mahafaly* sp. n., *C. malagasy* sp. n., *C. omasi* sp. n., *C. placida* sp. n., *C. raveri* sp. n., *C. salegi* sp. n., *C. sampi* sp. n., *C. tana* sp. n., *C. tanana* sp. n., *C. vazimba* sp. n.), and two are redescribed, *C. grandidieri* Forel (= *C. voeltzkowi* Forel n. syn.) and *C. nosindambo* Forel. A lectotype is designated for *C. nosindambo*. *C. creolei* sp. n. is known only from Mauritius and Seychelles, *C. grandidieri* Forel is distributed in Comoros, Madagascar and Mayotte, and the other twenty-one species are endemic to Madagascar. Most of the *Carebara* species recorded in this work are endemic to a specific habitat (ecoregion), but some of them (*C. bara* sp. n., *C. grandidieri* Forel, *C. jajoby* sp. n., *C. kabosy* sp. n., and *C. nosindambo* Forel) are widespread within Madagascar across all major habitats.

The worker caste of *Carebara* can be differentiated from other genera in the Myrmicinae subfamily by the presence of the following combination of characters: antennae of eight to eleven segments, with a two-segmented club; anterior clypeal margin without central isolated seta (rarely present in some species or specimens), and usually with four distinct setae; mandibles with four to seven teeth (except in one species from Ghana - *C. crigenis* with three teeth); and palp formula 2,2 or 1,2. We report that almost all *Carebara* species found in the Malagasy region have intermediates (distinct forms) in the major worker subcaste, with the largest major workers showing remnants of queen flight sclerites and ocelli. The widespread presence of intermediates in the major worker subcaste expands the morphological boundaries of *Carebara*. We present an overview of the natural history of *Carebara* in the Malagasy region, an illustrated key for the identification of the known Malagasy species of *Carebara*, as well as high-resolution images and distribution maps. Unique identifiers are used for all specimens studied, including type material, and the raw data that forms the basis of this study are available on www.antweb.org (open access).



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TAXONOMY OF THE ANT GENUS *CAREBARA* WESTWOOD (FORMICIDAE, MYRMICINAE) IN THE MALAGASY REGION

BY
FRANK AZORSA & BRIAN L. FISHER



Carebara creolei Azorsa & Fisher, sp. n.

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Terry Erwin
Smithsonian Institution
PO Box 37012, MRC 187, Rm. CE-723
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Managing Editor

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Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research
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Pensoft Publishers
Prof. Georgi Zlatarski 12, 1700 Sofia, Bulgaria. Tel. +359-2-8704281, Fax +359-2-8704282
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