

China's Hengduan Mountain region has been considered one of the most diverse regions in the Northern hemisphere. Its stunning topography with many deep valleys and impassable mountain barriers has promoted an astonishing diversification in many groups of organisms including plants, birds, mammals, and amphibians. However, the insect biodiversity in this region is still poorly known.

This paper presents the first checklist of ant species from the Southern Hengduan Mountain region generated by sampling ant diversity using a wide array of collection methods. In total, 130 species/morphospecies from 9 subfamilies and 49 genera have been recorded. Among them, 16 species from 13 genera represent new records for Yunnan province, and eight species are newly recorded for China. Moreover, the 41 novel morphospecies (31% of the total collected taxa) will prove to be new to science. These results highlight this region's rich ant fauna and strongly support its status as a biodiversity hotspot. In addition, the paper also updated the current ant species checklist for the whole of Yunnan Province by recording 537 named species from 98 genera.

ANTS OF THE HENGDUAN MOUNTAINS: A NEW ALTITUDINAL SURVEY AND UPDATED CHECKLIST FOR YUNNAN PROVINCE HIGHLIGHT AN UNDERSTUDIED INSECT BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

BY

CONG LIU, GEORG FISCHER, FRANCISCO HITA GARCIA,
SEIKI YAMANE, QING LIU, YAN QIONG PENG,
EVAN P. ECONOMO, BENOIT GUÉNARD, NAOMI E. PIERCE



Dilobocondyla eguchii Bharti & Kumar, 2013

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Terry Erwin
Smithsonian Institution
PO Box 37012, MRC 187, Rm. CE-723
Washington, DC 20013-7012
U.S.A.
E-mail: erwint@si.edu

Managing Editor

Lyubomir Penev
Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Yurii Gagarin Street 2
1113 Sofia, Bulgaria
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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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