

A contribution to the study of the ant fauna (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of Eastern Iran

With 59 figures

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Summary

A faunistic inventory of several regions of eastern Iran revealed 30 ant species belonging to 17 genera (*Aphaenogaster* MAYR 1853, *Camponotus* MAYR 1861, *Cataglyphis* FOERSTER 1850, *Crematogaster* LUND 1831, *Dolichoderus* LUND 1831, *Formica* LINNAEUS 1758, *Lasius* FABRICIUS 1804, *Lepisiota* SANTSCHI 1926, *Linepithema* MAYR 1866, *Messor* FOREL 1890, *Monomorium* MAYR 1855, *Plagiolepis* MAYR 1861, *Pachycondyla* SMITH 1858, *Pheidole* WESTWOOD 1839, *Polyrhachis* SMITH 1857, *Solenopsis* WESTWOOD 1840, *Tapinoma* FOERSTER 1850). Two species, *Crematogaster laestrygon* EMERY, 1869 and *Camponotus adenensis* EMERY, 1893 are recorded for the first time from Iran. The majority of species were widespread taxa. No apparently endemic species were collected. Information on local and world distribution of collected species is presented.

Key words

Palaearctic region, Middle East, distribution, list, new record, Iran

Zusammenfassung

Das faunistische Verzeichnis mehrerer Regionen in Ost-Iran nennt 30 Ameisenarten, die zu 17 Gattungen gehören: *Aphaenogaster* MAYR 1853, *Camponotus* MAYR 1861, *Cataglyphis* FOERSTER 1850, *Crematogaster* LUND 1831, *Dolichoderus* LUND 1831, *Formica* LINNAEUS 1758, *Lasius* FABRICIUS 1804, *Lepisiota* SANTSCHI 1926, *Linepithema* MAYR 1866, *Messor* FOREL 1890, *Monomorium* MAYR 1855, *Plagiolepis* MAYR 1861, *Pachycondyla* SMITH 1858, *Pheidole* WESTWOOD 1839, *Polyrhachis* SMITH 1857, *Solenopsis* WESTWOOD 1840, *Tapinoma* FOERSTER 1850. Zwei Arten, *Crematogaster laestrygon* EMERY, 1869 und *Camponotus adenensis* EMERY, 1893 werden erstmals für Iran nachgewiesen. Die Mehrzahl der behandelten Taxa ist weit verbreitet. Offensichtlich endemische Arten wurden nicht gesammelt. Weiterhin wird die lokale und weltweite Verbreitung der gesammelten Arten dargestellt.

INTRODUCTION

Iran encompasses a large portion of the Iranian Plateau (including Afghanistan and adjacent West Pakistan) and covers 1623,779 km². It is bordered in the north by the Caucasus Mountains, Middle Asian regions, and the Caspian Sea (27 m below sea level); in the west by the Anatolian and Mesopotamian regions; in the east by the eastern portion of the Iranian Plateau and the Baluch-Sindian Region, and finally in the south by the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, which are connected by the latter to the Indian Ocean (ZEHZAD et al. 2002).

Among the wide variety of animal biodiversity on earth, ants or the Formicidae are a well-recognized cosmopolitan group of insects (HÖLLDOBLER & WILSON 1990). Ants include about 1.5 % of the total known world entomofauna, but comprises more than 10 % of the animal biomass of grasslands, tropical forests, and other major habitats (WILSON 2000). The nesting habits of ants are extremely diverse, including soil, leaf litter, rotting logs, and in various plants parts (e.g. roots, stems fruits) (HÖLLDOBLER & WILSON 1990). There are

about 15,097 valid species and subspecies belonging to 16 valid extant subfamilies and 402 recognized genera (<http://www.antwiki.org/>).

The ant fauna of Iran has not been well studied especially considering the vast area of the country and the countless uncollected areas. Several papers on the Iranian Formicidae have been published reporting at least 144 species and subspecies (ARDEH 1994; TIRGARI & PAKNIA 2004; PAKNIA & TIRGARI 2004; PAKNIA 2006; PAKNIA & KAMI 2007; PAKNIA et al. 2008, 2010; RAFINEJAD et al. 2009; RADCHENKO & PAKNIA 2010; GHAHARI & COLLINGWOOD 2011, 2013; GHAHARI et al. 2008, 2009, 2010a, b, 2011; FIROUZI et al. 2011; MOHAMMADI et al. 2012; SHIRAN et al. 2013). The objective of this work is to report for the first time on ants the eastern region of Iran.

Materials and Methods

Study area: In this study, ants were collected in eastern Iran including the following Provinces, North Khorasan, South Khorasan, Kerman, Razavi Khorasan, Sistan, and

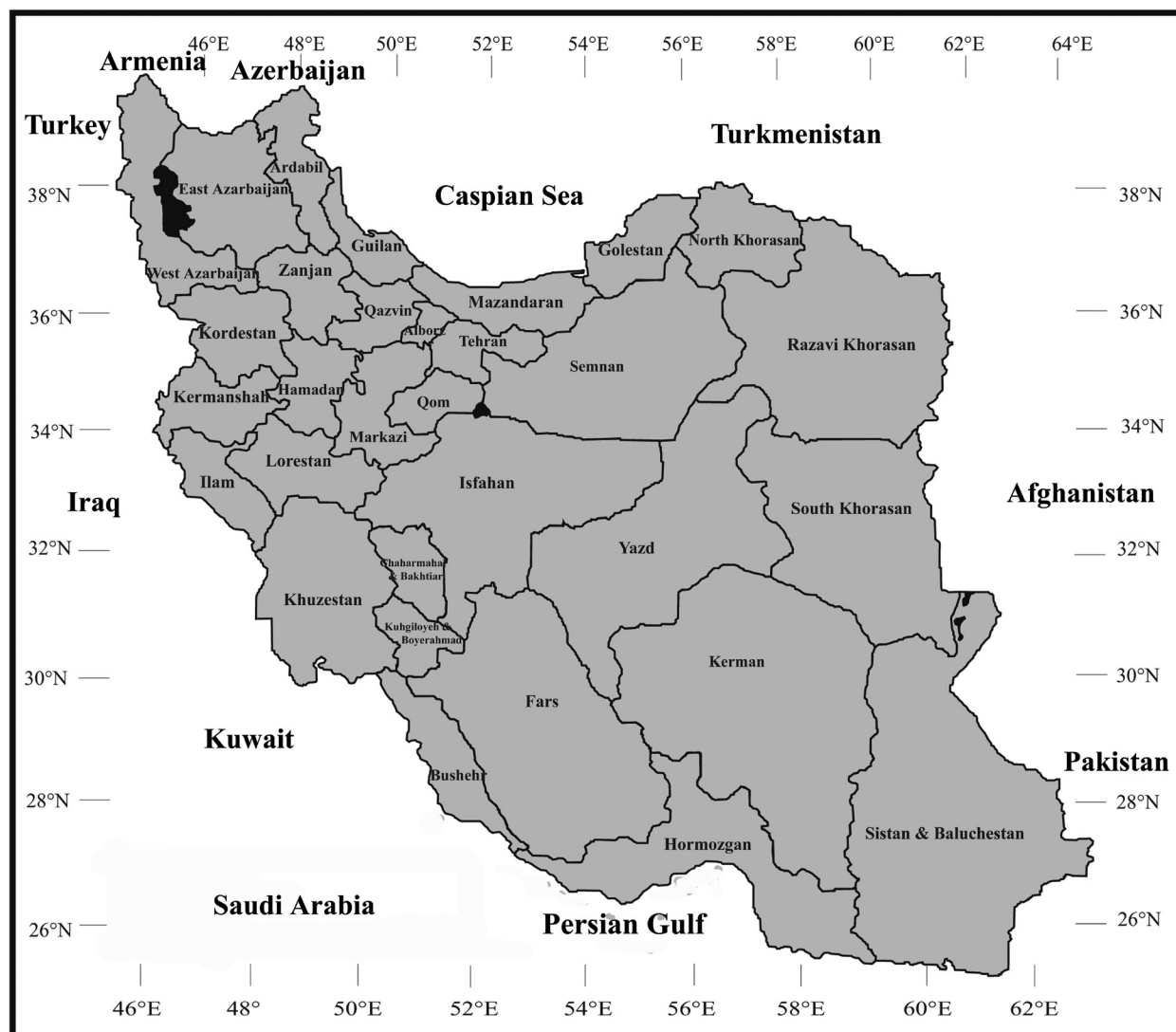


Fig. 1: Map of Iran with boundaries of Provinces for showing the distribution of ant species of this paper.

Baluchestan (Fig. 1). Khorasan Province is in northeastern Iran, but historically has been referred to a much larger region east and northeast of the original Persian Empire. Khorasan was the largest Province of Iran, but was divided in 2004 into three provinces, North Khorasan (37.4761°N 57.3317°E), South Khorasan (32.8653°N 59.2164°E), and Razavi Khorasan (36.2980°N 59.6057°E). Kerman Province (30.2907°N 57.0679°E), is located in south-eastern Iran and is the second largest province of Iran with an area of 180,726 km², encompassing nearly 11 % of the land area of Iran. This region is largely steppe or sandy desert, although there are some oases where dates, oranges, and pistachios are cultivated. The province of Sistan and Baluchestan (29.4924°N 60.8669°E) is located in the Southeast, bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan, and is the largest in Iran, with an area of 181,785 km². All ant specimens were collected either by using pitfall traps, sweeping or hand collecting.

Illustrations: Specimens were photographed at California Academy of Science, San Francisco, USA, using a JVC KYF70B3CCD digital camera attached to a Leica M420 stereomicroscope. All digital images were processed using Auto-Montage (Syncroscopy, Division of Synoptics Ltd, USA) software. Images of the specimens are available in full color on www.antweb.org. Due to their importance in identification, images of the type specimens are presented as respective taxa.

RESULTS

Subfamily Dolichoderinae

Genus *Dolichoderus* LUND, 1831

Dolichoderus quadripunctatus (LINNAEUS, 1771)
(Figs 2–3)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Neyshabour, 36°12'N 58°45'E, (3), June–August 2010. Handcollecting.
Iranian records: East Azarbaijan (GHAHARI et al. 2011), Guilan (PAKNIA et al. 2010).

Distribution: This species is widely distributed in numerous countries of Palearctic and West Asian regions (SHATTUCK 1994).

Genus *Linepithema* MAYR, 1866

Linepithema humile MAYR, 1868
(Figs 4–5)

Material examined: South Khorasan Province, Birjand, 32°32'N 58°50'E, (1), September 2009. Handcollecting.
Iranian records: Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2009).

Distribution: *Linepithema humile* is a successful invasive species, originally described from Argentina. It has been reported from many regions worldwide including the Arabian Peninsula (COLLINGWOOD et al. 1997; COLLINGWOOD & VAN HARTEN 2001; COLLINGWOOD et al. 2011), Europe and the Mediterranean region (COLLINGWOOD 1979; CARPINTERO et al. 2005), Africa (HOLWAY et al. 2002), and USA (WARD 1987; SUAREZ et al. 1998).

Genus *Tapinoma* FOERSTER, 1850

Tapinoma cf. *simrothi* KRAUSSE, 1911
(Figs 6–7)

Material examined: South Khorasan Province, Birjand, 32°32'N 58°50'E, (2), September 2009. Sweeping. Razavi Khorasan Province, Ferdows, 34°10'N 57°40'E, (1), September–October 2012. Pitfall traps.
Iranian records: East Azarbaijan (Sakenin Chelav et al. 2008a), Isfahan (Shiran et al. 2012), Khuzestan (Dezhakam & Soleyman Nejadiyan 2000; Mossadegh et al. 2008; Alizadeh et al. 2012; Mossadegh 2012).

Distribution: This species is distributed in Europe (SHATTUCK 1994).

Subfamily Formicinae

Genus *Camponotus* MAYR, 1861

Camponotus adenensis EMERY, 1893
(Figs 8–9)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Sabzevar, 36°12'N 57°35'E, (1), October 2009. **New record for Iran.** Handcollecting.

Distribution: This species was originally described from Yemen and recorded from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (COLLINGWOOD 1985; COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Camponotus libanicus ANDRE, 1881
(Figs 10–11)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Kerman, 30°20'N 58°00'E, (3), April 2010. Sweeping. Sistan & Baluchestan Province, Zahedan, 29°29'N 60°15'E, (2), May 2011. Handcollecting.
Iranian records: Khuzestan (Shiran et al. 2012, 2013), Tehran (Alipanah et al. 2000; Paknia et al. 2010).

Distribution: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey (KARAMAN & AKTAC 2013), Israel, Lebanon (IONESCU-HIRSCH 2009).

Comments: Associated with *Aphis craccivora* KOCH on *Rumex acetosa* L. (SHIRAN et al. 2013).

Camponotus xerxes FOREL, 1904

(Figs 12–13)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Bam, 29°04'N 58°21'E, (2), April 2010. Handcollecting. Sistan & Baluchestan Province, Zahedan, 29°29'N 60°15'E, (1), May 2011. Pitfall traps.

Iranian records: East Azerbaijan (Samin et al. 2011), Kermanshah, Kordestan (Ghahari & Collingwood 2013), Khuzestan (Dezhakam & Soleyman Nejadiyan 2000; Alizadeh et al. 2012; Mossadegh 2012), Mazandaran (Sakenin Chelav et al. 2008b; Ghahari et al. 2008, 2009, 2010b), northern Iran (Forel 1904; Ardeh 1994; Radchenko 1996, 1997).

Distribution: Arabian Peninsula (COLLINGWOOD 1985; COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996; COLLINGWOOD et al. 2011), Sinai Peninsula (SHARAF 2006), Central Asia (RADCHENKO 1997), Israel (IONESCU-HIRSCH 2009) and Turkey (KARAMAN & AKTAC 2013).

Genus *Cataglyphis* FÖRSTER, 1850

Cataglyphis cinnamomea (KARAVAEV, 1910)

(Figs 14–15)

Material examined: South Khorasan Province, Birjand, 32°32'N 58°50'E, (1), September 2009. Sweeping.

Iranian records: Hormozgan (Ghahari et al. 2010a; Ghahari & Collingwood 2011), Ilam (Ghahari & Collingwood 2013), Khuzestan (Shiran et al. 2012, 2013), Yazd (Paknia et al. 2010).

Distribution: Middle Asia, South Kazakhstan and Afghanistan (PISARSKI 1967; RADCHENKO 1998), the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, UAE) and North Africa (COLLINGWOOD et al. 2011).

Comments: Associated with *Myzus persicae* SULZER on *Beta maritima* L. (SHIRAN et al. 2013).

Cataglyphis setipes (FOREL, 1894)

(Figs 16–17)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Ferdows, 34°10'N 57°40'E, (2), September–October 2012. Pitfall traps.

Iranian records: Khuzestan (Dezhakam & Soleyman Nejadiyan 2000; Shiran et al. 2012, 2013), Tehran (Alipanah et al. 2000).

Distribution: This species was described from Greece and has an Asian distribution range from Caucasia to Middle Asia (ARNOL'DI & DLUSSKY, 1978).

Cataglyphis semitonsa SANTSCHI, 1929

(Figs 18–19)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Jiroft, 28°50'N 57°35'E, (1), April 2010. Sweeping.

Iranian records: Lorestan (Ghahari & Collingwood 2013), Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2009), Semnan (Mirseyed et al. 2013).

Distribution: North Africa (SANTSCHI 1929), Saudi Arabia (COLLINGWOOD 1985).

Genus *Formica* LINNAEUS, 1758

Formica glauca RUZSKY, 1896

(Figs 20–21)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Neyshabour, 36°12'N 58°45'E, (4), June–August 2010. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: Kermanshah, Kordestan (Ghahari & Collingwood 2013), Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2008, 2009, 2010b), Tehran (Alipanah et al. 2000).

Distribution: *Formica glauca* was described from Russian Federation (RUZSKY, 1896), and reported from Iran (ALIPANAH et al. 2000, GHAHARI et al. 2008, 2009, 2010b, GHAHARI & COLLINGWOOD 2013), Afghanistan, Mongolia, and China (WHEELER 1930–1931; DLUSSKY 1967) and several countries of Europe including Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Romania (ATANASSOV & DLUSSKY 1992; SEIFERT & SCHULTZ 2009).

Genus *Lasius* FABRICIUS, 1804

Lasius turcicus SANTSCHI, 1921

(Figs 22–23)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Mashhad, 36°17'N 59°40'E, (1), July 2011. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2009; Gholami et al. 2012; Afshari et al. 2013), Tehran (Alipanah et al. 2000).

Distribution: Iran (ALIPANAH et al. 2000; GHAHARI et al. 2009; GHOLAMI et al. 2012; AFSHARI et al. 2013) and Turkey (SANTSCHI 1921).

Genus *Lepisiota* SANTSCHI, 1926

Lepisiota karawaiewi KUZNETSOV-UGAMSKY, 1929
(Figs 24–25)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Bam, 29°04'N 58°21'E, (2), June 2011. Pitfall traps.
Iranian records: Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2008, 2009, 2010b).

Distribution: Arabian Peninsula (Kuwait) and south-eastern Europe (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Lepisiota melas EMERY, 1915
(Figs 26–27)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Mashhad, 36°17'N 59°40'E, (3), July 2011. Handcollecting. Razavi Khorasan Province, Sabzevar, 36°12'N 57°35'E, (1), October 2009. Sweeping.
Iranian records: Fars (Mohammadi et al. 2012).

Distribution: *Lepisiota melas* was described from Greece (EMERY 1915) and recorded from Iran (MOHAMMADI et al. 2012) and the former Yugoslavia (AGOSTI & COLLINGWOOD 1987).

Genus *Plagiolepis* (MAYR, 1861)

Plagiolepis cf. *pygmaea* (LATREILLE, 1798)
(Figs 28–29)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Kerman, 30°20'N 58°00'E, (4), April 2010. Sweeping. Razavi Khorasan Province, Neyshabour, 36°12'N 58°45'E, (1), June–August 2010. Pitfall traps.
Iranian records: Khuzestan (Ghahari et al. 2010a; Ghahari & Collingwood 2011).

Distribution: This species was reported from southern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Maltese Islands (COLLINGWOOD 1985), the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia) (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Plagiolepis schmitzii FOREL, 1895
(Figs 30–31)

Material examined: Sistan & Baluchestan Province, Zahedan, (2), May 2011. Handcollecting. Kerman Province, Rafsanjan, 30°30'N 55°40'E, (1), June 2011. Handcollecting.
Iranian records: Fars (Mohammadi et al. 2012).

Distribution: This species was described from Madeira Island (Portugal) (FOREL 1895), and has been reported

from North Africa (SANTSCHI 1911) and southwestern Europe and Iberian Peninsula (COLLINGWOOD 1976, 1985; SHARAF 2006), the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia) (COLLINGWOOD 1985).

Genus *Polyrhachis* SMITH, 1857

Polyrhachis lacteipennis SMITH, 1858
(Figs 32–33)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Jiroft, 28°50'N 57°35'E, (2), April 2010. Handcollecting. Sistan & Baluchestan Province, Zahedan, (1), May 2011. Handcollecting.
Iranian records: Fars (Tirgari & Paknia 2004), Khuzestan (Dezhakam & Soleyman Nejadiyan 2000; Shiran et al. 2012, 2013), Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2008, 2009, 2010b), Khuzestan (Modarres Awal 1997; Mossadegh et al. 2008).

Distribution: *Polyrhachis lacteipennis* was originally described from India (SMITH 1858) and reported from the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen) and the Middle East (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Comments: Associated with *A. gossypii* on *Althaea rosae* L., *A. gossypii* on *H. Rosasinensis*, and *R. maidis* on *Bromus* sp. (SHIRAN et al. 2013). Predator of *Sesamia nonagrioides* LEFÉBVRE (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) (MODARRES AWAL 1997).

Subfamily Myrmicinae

Genus *Aphaenogaster* MAYR, 1853

Aphaenogaster splendida, ROGER, 1859
(Figs 34–35)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Mashhad, 36°17'N 59°40'E, (1), July 2011. Handcollecting.
Iranian records: Fars (Mohammadi et al. 2012).

Distribution: Palearctic Region, southern Europe, Syria, and North Africa (Tunisia, Algeria) (EMERY 1908).

Genus *Crematogaster* LUND, 1831

Crematogaster laestrygon EMERY, 1869
(Figs 36–37)

Material examined: Sistan & Baluchestan Province, Iranshahr, 27°34'N 59°53'E, (2), April 2012. **New record for Iran.** Handcollecting.

Distribution: This species has a broad distribution in North Africa (COLLINGWOOD 1985, SHARAF 2006) and recorded from the Afrotropical region of the Arabian Peninsula including, Asir Mountains of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (COLLINGWOOD 1985) and Yemen (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Crematogaster luctans FOREL, 1907

(Figs 38–39)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Neyshabour, 36°12'N 58°45'E, (1), June–August 2010. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: Bushehr (Ghahari et al. 2010a; Ghahari & Collingwood 2011), Ilam (Ghahari & Collingwood 2013).

Distribution: Iran (GHAHARI et al. 2010a; GHAHARI & COLLINGWOOD 2011, 2013), the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia) (COLLINGWOOD 1985; COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996) and Africa (FOREL 1907).

Crematogaster subdentata MAYR, 1877

(Figs 40–41)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Jiroft, 28°50'N 57°35'E, (1), April 2010. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: West Azarbaijan (Ghahari et al. 2011), Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2009), North of Iran (Ardeh 1994).

Distribution: Palearctic region (MAYR 1877; GHAHARI et al. 2011; ARAKELIAN 1994).

Genus *Messor* FOREL, 1890

Messor denticulatus SANTSCHI, 1927

(Figs 42–43)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Mashhad, 36°17'N 59°40'E, (2), July 2011. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: Kordestan (Ghahari & Collingwood 2013), Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2009; Gholami et al. 2012), Northeast of Iran (*Arnoldi* 1977).

Distribution: Kazakhstan (SANTSCHI 1927a), Turkmenistan (DLUSSKY et al. 1990).

Messor meridionalis (ANDRÉ, 1883)

(Figs 44–45)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Rafsanjan, 30°30'N 55°40'E, (3), June 2011. Pitfall traps.

Iranian records: Sistan & Baluchestan (Ghahari et al. 2010a; Ghahari & Collingwood 2011), North and South-west of Iran (Ardeh 1994).

Distribution: Palearctic Region: Central Asia, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE) (COLLINGWOOD 1985; COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Messor orientalis EMERY, 1896

(Figs 46–47)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Kerman, 30°20'N 58°00'E, (2), April 2010. Sweeping.

Iranian records: Zanjan (Hossein Nezhad et al. 2012).

Distribution: Central Asia, Middle East, South East Europe (TOHMÉ & TOHMÉ 1981; COLLINGWOOD 1985; COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Genus *Monomorium* MAYR, 1855

Monomorium areniphilum SANTSCHI, 1911

(Figs 48–49)

Material examined: South Khorasan Province, Birjand, 32°32'N 58°50'E, (1), September 2009. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2009).

Distribution: Palearctic Region, North Africa (COLLINGWOOD 1985), Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Yemen) (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996), Afrotropical region (Sudan, Mali, Niger, Senegal) (BOLTON 1987).

Monomorium barbatulum MAYR, 1877

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Neyshabour, 36°12'N 58°45'E, (2), June–August 2010. Handcollecting. Razavi Khorasan, Mashhad, 36°17'N 59°40'E, (1), July 2011. Handcollecting. Sistan and Baluchestan provinces, Zahedan, (2), May 2011. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: Ardabil (Ghahari et al. 2011), South Khorasan (Tabas) (Paknia et al. 2010).

Distribution: Arabian Peninsula (United Arab Emirates) and Central Asia (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996; COLLINGWOOD et al. 2011).

Monomorium salomonis (LINNAEUS, 1758)

(Figs 50–51)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Jiroft, 28°50'N 57°35'E, (4), April 2010. Handcollecting.

Iranian records: Hormozgan (Ghahari et al. 2010a; Ghahari & Collingwood 2011), Khuzestan (Modarres Awal 1997), Southern Iran (Menozzi 1927).

Distribution: Arabian Peninsula (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait) and North Africa (COLLINGWOOD 1985; COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Comments: Predator of *Earias insulana* BOISDUVAL (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) (MODARRES AWAL 1997).

Genus *Pheidole* WESTWOOD, 1839

Pheidole megacephala FABRICIUS, 1793
(Figs 52–53)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Kerman, 30°20'N 58°00'E, (2), April 2010. Pitfall traps. Kerman Province, Jiroft, 28°50'N 57°35'E, (1), April 2010. Pitfall traps.

Iranian records: Hormozgan (Ghahari et al. 2010a; Ghahari & Collingwood 2011), Kordestan (Ghahari & Collingwood 2013), Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2008, 2009, 2010b).

Distribution: A cosmopolitan tramp species (COLLINGWOOD 1985; COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Pheidole sculpturata MAYR, 1866
(Figs 54–55)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Mashhad, 36°17'N 59°40'E, (3), July 2011. Sweeping. Iranian records: Fars (Mohammadi et al. 2012).

Distribution: Afrotropical region (ARNOLD 1920), Yemen (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Genus *Solenopsis* WESTWOOD, 1840

Solenopsis wolffi EMERY, 1915
(Figs 56–57)

Material examined: Razavi Khorasan Province, Neyshabour, 36°12'N 58°45'E, (1), June–August 2010. Sweeping.

Iranian records: Mazandaran (Ghahari et al. 2009).

Distribution: Palearctic Region, Europe (AGOSTI & COLLINGWOOD 1987).

Subfamily Ponerinae

Genus *Mesoponera* SMITH, 1858

Mesoponera ambigua (ANDRÉ, 1890)
(Figs 58–59)

Material examined: Kerman Province, Rafsanjan, 30°30'N 55°40'E, (2), June 2011. Sweeping.

Iranian records: Khuzestan (Ghahari et al. 2010a; Ghahari & Collingwood 2011).

Distribution: This species was described from Sierra Leon (ANDRÉ, 1890), and was recorded from the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia) (COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996).

Discussion

The ant fauna of most Iranian provinces have not been studied comprehensively. Several papers have been published for ants occurring in northern Iran (in rice fields) (GHAHARI et al. 2010b), southern Iran (GHAHARI & COLLINGWOOD 2011), northwestern Iran (Arasbaran) (GHAHARI et al. 2011), and western Iran (GHAHARI & COLLINGWOOD 2013). Future collecting activities in the eastern region of Iran and as well in other areas will add additional taxa to the ant fauna of this country. This list of species along with the color images of each species should be a useful identification guide for this large region of Iran.

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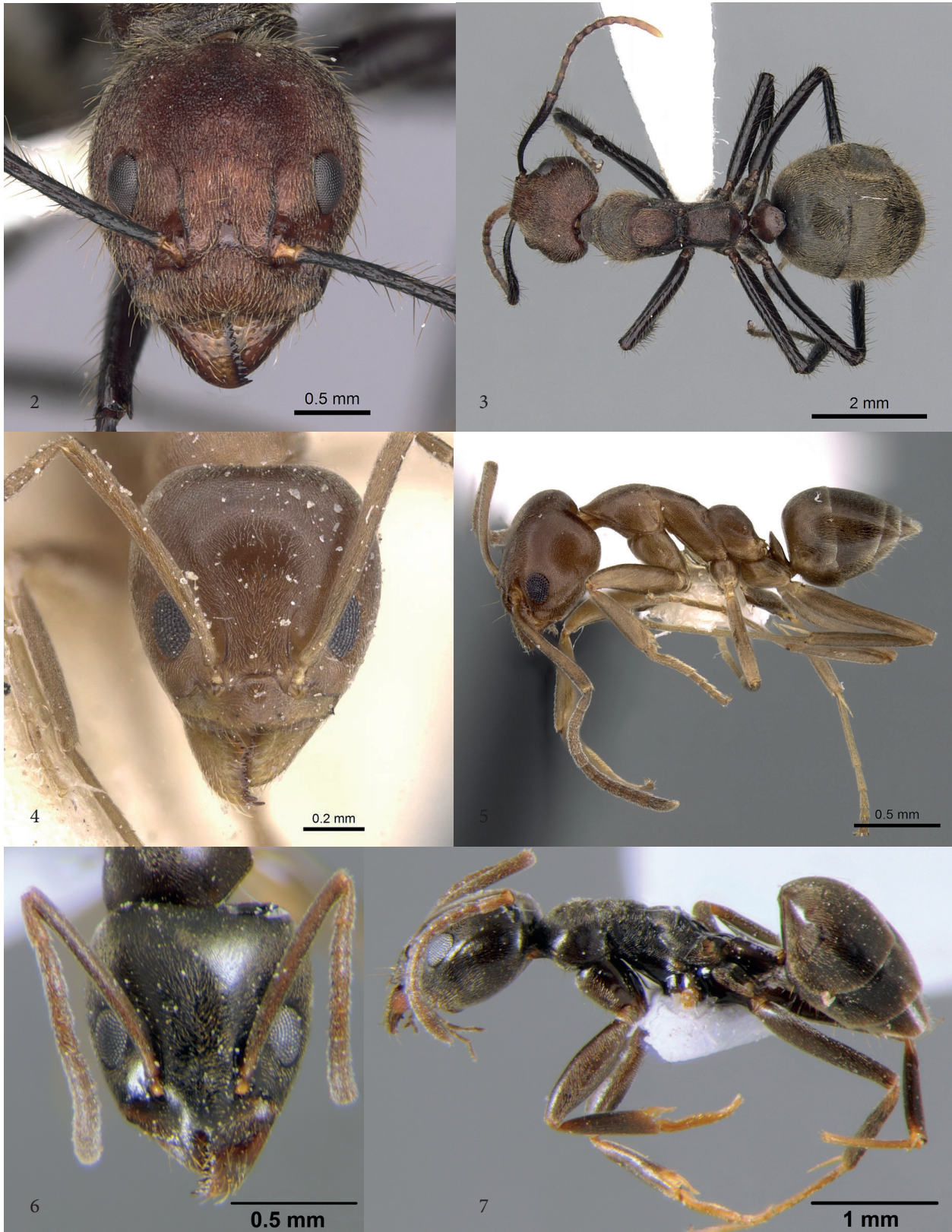
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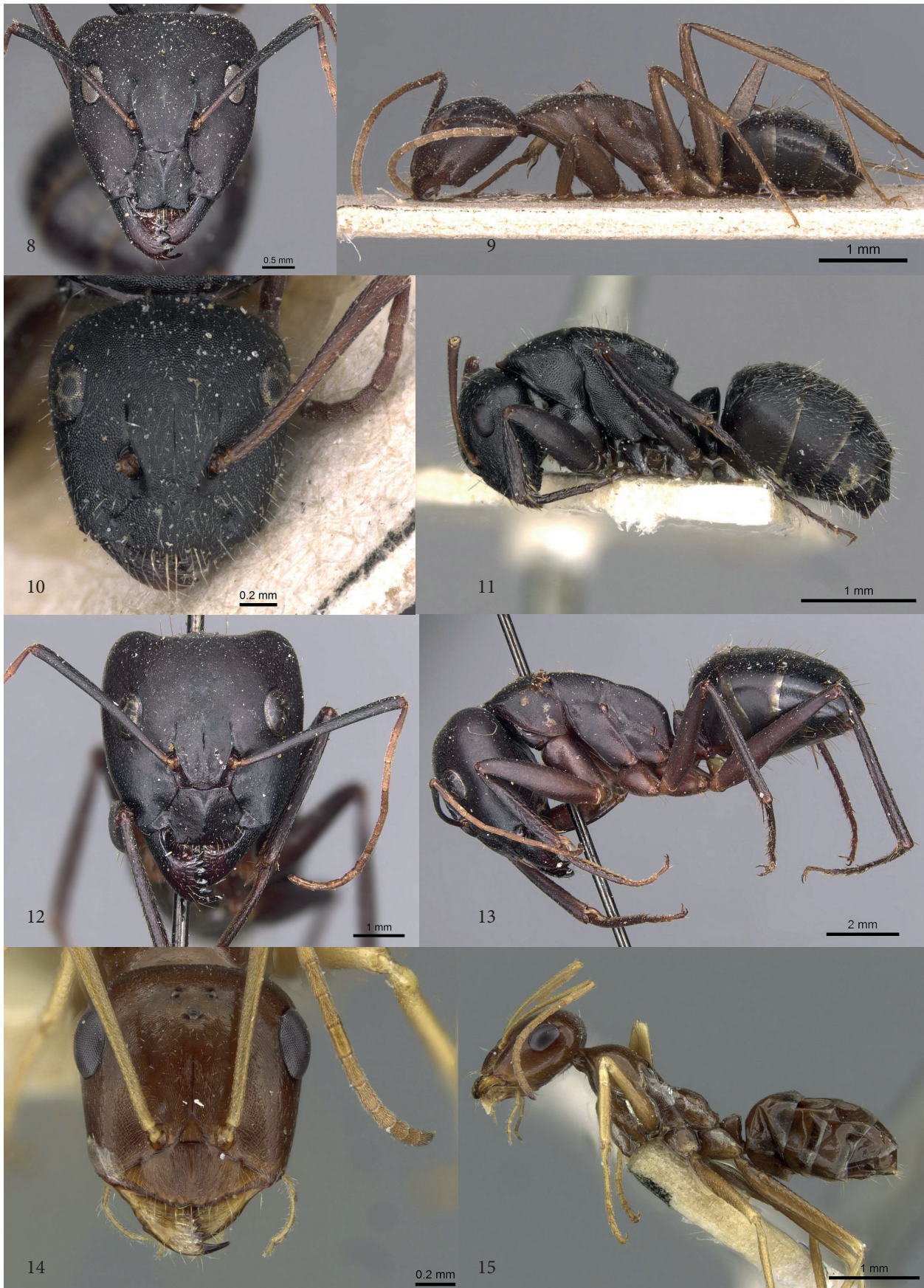
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Figs 2–7: 2, 3 *Dolichoderus quadripunctatus* (casent0246569, Italy), 2 Head in full-face view, 3 Body in profile, Photographer: Andrea Walker; 4, 5 *Linepithema humile* (casent0106119, Argentina), 4 Head in full-face view, 5 Body in profile, Photographer: Michael Branstetter; 6, 7 *Tapinoma simrothi* (casent0910228, Argentina), 6 Head in full-face view, 7 Body in profile, Photographer: Michael Branstetter.



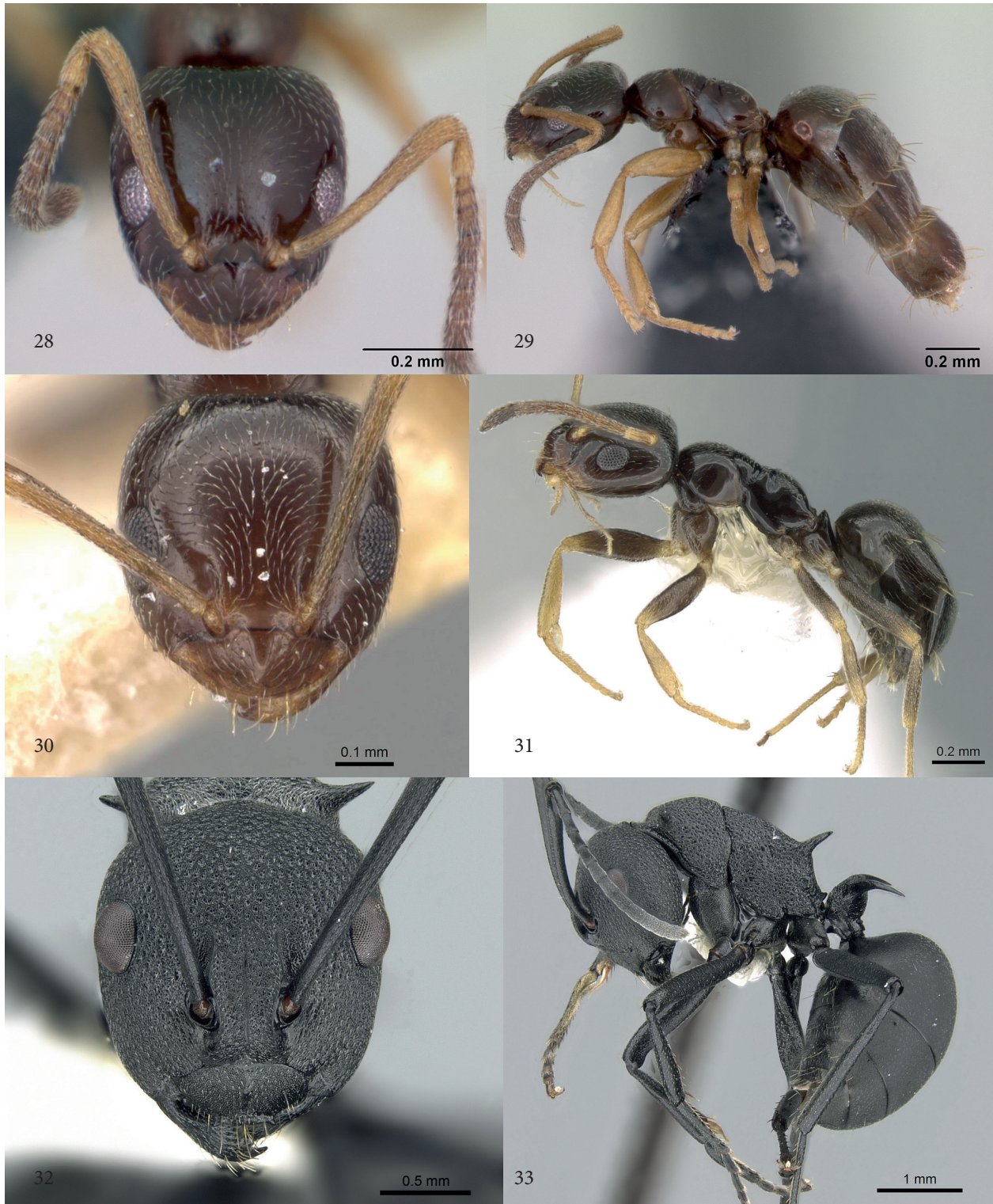


Figs 16–21: 16, 17 *Cataglyphis nodus* (casent0906069, Holotype); 16 Head in full-face view, 17 Body in profile, Photographer: Shannon Hartman; 18, 19 *Cataglyphis semitonsa* (casent0912230, Holotype), 18 Head in full-face view, 19 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman; 20, 21 *Formica glauca* (casent0911078, Holotype), 20 Head in full-face view, 21 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson.

Figs 8–15 (opposite): 8, 9 *Camponotus adenensis* (casent0905283, Holotype); 8 Head in full-face view, 9 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson; 10, 11 *Camponotus libanicus* (casent0913700, Holotype), 10 Head in full-face view, 11 Body in profile, Photographer: Alexandra Westrich; 12, 13 *Camponotus xerxes* (casent0905292, Holotype), 12 Head in full-face view, 13 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson; 14, 15 *Cataglyphis cinnamomea* (casent0911105, Holotype), 14 Head in full-face view, 15 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman.



Figs 22–27: 22, 23 *Lasius turcicus* (casent0912297, Holotype), 22 Head in full-face view, 23 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman; 24, 25 *Lepisiota karawaiewi* (casent0912405, Holotype); 24 Head in full-face view, 25 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson; 26,27 *Lepisiota melas* (casent0905146, Holotype), 26 Head in full-face view, 27 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman.



Figs 28–33: 28, 29 *Plagiolepis pygmaea* (casent0912420, Holotype), 28 Head in full-face view, 29 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman; 30, 31 *Plagiolepis schmitzii* (casent0909859, Holotype), 30 Head in full-face view, 31 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson; 32, 33 *Polyrhachis lacteipennis* (casent0281400, Nepal); 32 Head in full-face view, 33 Body in profile, Photographer: Michele Esposito.



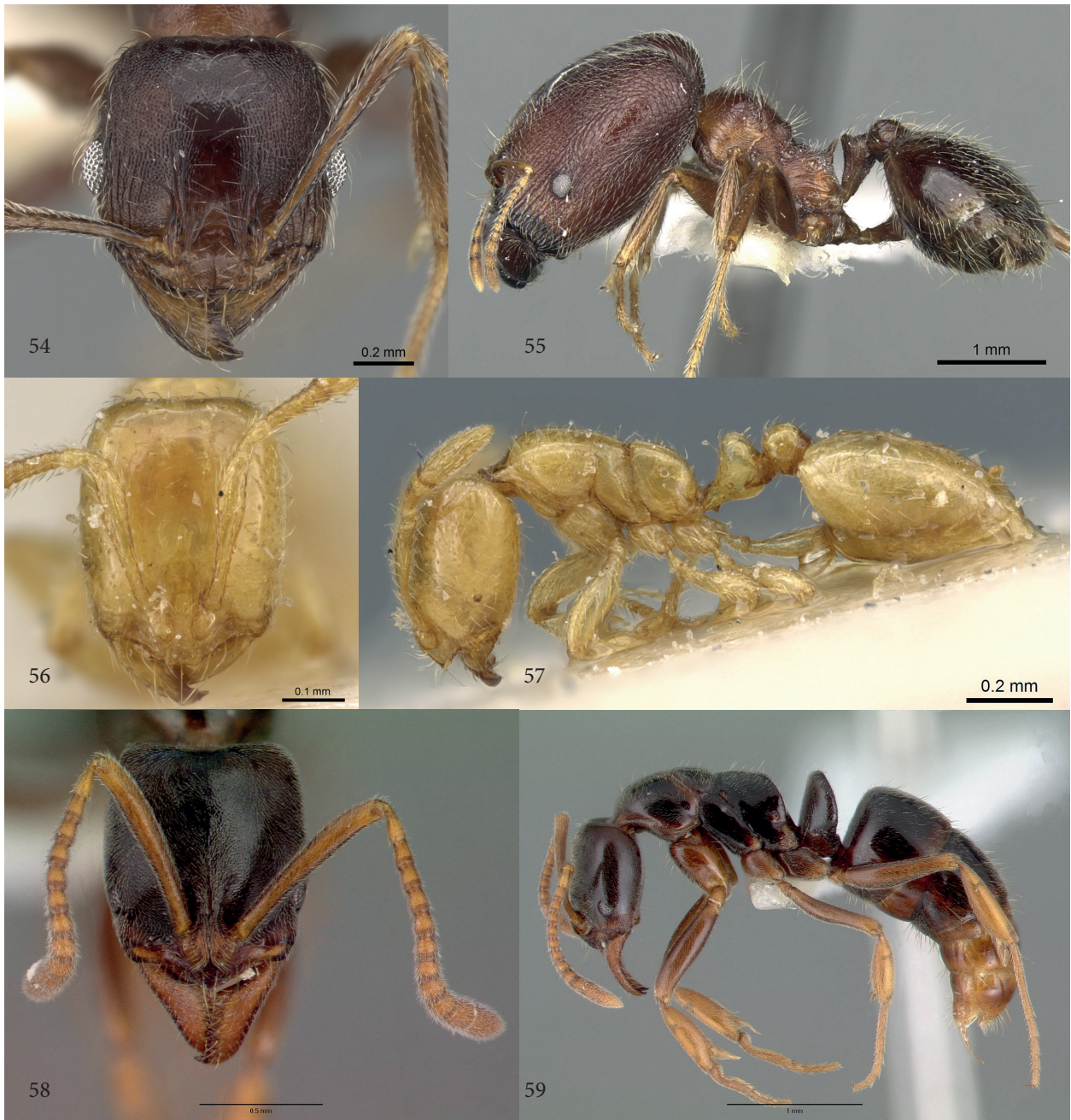


Figs 42–47: 42, 43 *Messor denticulatus* (casent0913176, Holotype), 42 Head in full-face view, 43 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman; 44, 45 *Messor meridionalis* (CFH000073, Iran), 44 Head in full-face view, 45 Body in profile, Photographer: Donat Agosti; 46, 47 *Messor orientalis* (casent0904132, Holotype), 46 Head in full-face view, 47 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson.

Figs 34–41 (opposite): 34, 35 *Aphaenogaster splendida* (casent0280965, Holotype), 34 Head in full-face view, 35 Body in profile, Photographer: Shannon Hartman; 36, 37 *Crematogaster laestrygon* (casent0904500, Holotype), 36 Head in full-face view, 37 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson; 38, 39 *Crematogaster luctans* (casent0908611, Holotype), 38 Head in full-face view, 39 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman; 40, 41 *Crematogaster subdentata* (casent0902140, Holotype); 40 Head in full-face view, 41 Body in profile, Photographer: Ryan Perry.



Figs 48–53: 48, 49 *Monomorium areniphilum* (casent0913555, Holotype); 48 Head in full-face view, 49 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson; 50, 51 *Monomorium salomonis* (casent0913835, Holotype), 50 Head in full-face view, 51 Body in profile, Photographer: Will Ericson; 52, 53 *Mesoponera ambigua* (casent0006209, Madagascar), 52 Head in full-face view, 53 Body in profile, Photographer: April Nobile.



Figs 54–59: 54, 55 *Pheidole megacephala* (casent0104990, Neotype, Mauritius), 54 Head in full-face view, 55 Body in profile, Photographer: Michele Esposito; 56, 57 *Pheidole sculpturata* (casent0281616, Botswana); 56 Head in full-face view, 57 Body in profile, Photographer: Michele Esposito; 58, 59: *Solenopsis wolffi* (casent0904622, Holotype), 58 Head in full-face view, 59 Body in profile, Photographer: Zach Lieberman.