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Borneo, fANTastique!

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Imagine that as a young student of myrmecology you could be given the opportunity to learn and talk about ants for ten full days; collect night and day in luxuriant tropical forests almost free of mosquitoes but not of leeches; attend dynamic lectures on the latest developments in ant taxonomy, systematics, biogeography, ecology, and behaviour of ants; and finally meet with colleagues who are as passionate about ants as you are. Sound like a dream? In fact, this was the reality for 30 students and 17 instructors who attended the 14th edition of Ant Course. The course was held this year (2014) from July 20th to July 31th in Maliau Basin, Sabah, in the core of Borneo. Attendees hailed from 20 countries and the six continents. Organizer Brian Fisher (California Academy of Sciences), with the support of Arthur Chung (Sabah Biodiversity Centre), Bakhtiar Yayha (Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, University of Malaysia) and Simon Robson (Centre for Tropical Biodiversity & Climate Change, James Cook University), decided to explore the rich ant fauna of Borneo. The occasion marked the course's second run in Asia; Ant Course 2010 was held in Danum Valley, Sabah.

No fewer than six members of the ANeT community were invited to participate in the course as instructors (Table 1); all shared their knowledge on Asian ants, demonstrating the growing importance of the ANeT community in this part of the world. Furthermore, the convincing efforts of Simon Robson, aided by

all the wonders collected in the forest as well as the generous happy hours, some 20 attendees decided to join ANeT to support our common endeavour of obtaining a better understanding of Asian ants!

Borneo hosts 102 genera of ants (Guénard *et al.* 2014), which left plenty of opportunities for students to get a taste of the island's impressive ant biodiversity. With a workforce of nearly 45 ant biologists, among them some of the most skilled myrmecologists in the world, a plethora of ants were collected. It will probably require many years to sort all of the newly collected material to species level, and even more time before those individuals star in new publications and are showcased on Antweb.org. However, a list of 88 genera can already be presented here; this broad range of sampled biodiversity reflects attendees' intense collection effort. As a result, two genera were recorded for the first time (Pfeiffer *et al.* 2011, Guénard *et al.* 2014) in Borneo: *Rhopalothrix* and *Tyrannomyrmex*.

Despite the fact that instructors and students alike beat the bushes and checked their tuna-baited traps with diligent regularity, a few genera remain unknown to the Ant Course crew. In a way, these omissions are extremely fortunate, as they provide incentives for Ant Course to return to Borneo for a third time. Given the new field station facilities being built at the Imbak Canyon Conservation Area, it would be with great excitement and anticipation that course



Fig. 1. Photo of the 2014 Antcourse participants in Maliau Basin Conservation Area.

participants would flock to the forests of Borneo for another chance to learn about the wide world of ants.

Table 1. List of students and instructors participating to the AntCourse 2014. Members of ANeT invited as instructors are marked with an *.

Students	Country
Mohd Afifi	Malaysia
Patrick Belenky	United States
Doug Booher	United States
Ian Butler	United States
Anoop Das	India
Dario D'Eustacchio	Italy
Adam Devenish	United Kingdom
Marie Madeleine Dieng	Senegal
Ingrid Fetter Pruneda	United States
Thomas Gabel	United States
Timothy Golden	United States
Muhammad Shafiq Hamdin	Malaysia

Mickal Houadria	Germany
Cong Liu	Japan
Sharon Marsden	Australia
Brett Morgan	United States
Musa Muchtar	Malaysia
Nichola Plowman	Czech Republic
Rodolfo Probst	Brazil
Jayanthi Puniamoorthy	Singapore
Thibault Ramage	France
Jignasha Rana	United States
Hasrin Rossleykho	Malaysia
Tze Min Teo	Malaysia
Fiona Thomson	New Zealand
Jiří Tůma	Czech Republic
Fabian Westermann	New Zealand
Yannick Wurm	England
Mika Yasuda	China
Mohd Afif Zakaria	Malaysia

Instructors	Country
Himender Bharti*	India
Arthur Chung*	Malaysia

Flavia Esteves	United States
Brian Fisher	United States
Dave General	Philippines
Benoît Guénard*	Japan
Roberto Keller	Portugal
Laurent Keller	Switzerland
Jack Longino	United States
Corrie Moreau	United States
Christian Peeters*	France
Simon Robson*	Australia
Eli Sarnat	United States
Steve Shattuck	Australia
Andy Suarez	United States
Walter Tschinkel	United States
Phil Ward	United States
Bakhtiar Yahya*	Malaysia

Table 2. Preliminary List of Genera collected in Maliau Basin Conservation area. * represents new generic record for Borneo island.

Subfamily	Genus
Amblyoponinae	<i>Myopopone</i>
	<i>Mystrium</i>
	<i>Prionopelta</i>
	<i>Stigmatomma</i>
Dolichoderinae	<i>Chronoxenus</i>
	<i>Dolichoderus</i>
	<i>Iridomyrmex</i>
	<i>Loweriella</i>
	<i>Philidris</i>
	<i>Tapinoma</i>
	<i>Technomyrmex</i>
Dorylinae	<i>Aenictus</i>
	<i>Cerapachys</i>
	<i>Dorylus</i>
Ectatomminae	<i>Gnamptogenys</i>
Formicinae	<i>Acropyga</i>
	<i>Anoplolepis</i>
	<i>Camponotus</i>
	<i>Cladomyrma</i>
	<i>Echinopla</i>
	<i>Euprenolepis</i>
	<i>Gesomyrmex</i>

<i>Myrmoteras</i>
<i>Nylanderia</i>
<i>Oecophylla</i>
<i>Paraparatrechina</i>
<i>Plagiolepis</i>
<i>Polyrhachis</i>
<i>Pseudolasius</i>
Leptanillinae
<i>Protanilla</i>
Myrmicinae
<i>Acanthomyrmex</i>
<i>Aphaenogaster</i>
<i>Calyptomyrmex</i>
<i>Cardiocondyla</i>
<i>Carebara</i>
<i>Cataulacus</i>
<i>Crematogaster</i>
<i>Dacatinops</i>
<i>Dilobocondyla</i>
<i>Epelysidris</i>
<i>Eurhopalothrix</i>
<i>Gauromyrmex</i>
<i>Liomyrmex</i>
<i>Lophomyrmex</i>
<i>Lordomyrma</i>
<i>Mayriella</i>
<i>Meranoplus</i>
<i>Monomorium</i>
<i>Myrmecina</i>
<i>Myrmicaria</i>
<i>Paratopula</i>
<i>Pheidole</i>
<i>Pristomyrmex</i>
<i>Proatta</i>
<i>Recurvidris</i>
<i>Rhopalomastix</i>
<i>Rhopalothrix*</i>
<i>Solenopsis</i>
<i>Strumigenys</i>
<i>Syllophopsis</i>
<i>Tetramorium</i>
<i>Tyrannomyrmex*</i>
<i>Vollenhovia</i>
<i>Vombisidris</i>
Ponerinae
<i>Anochetus</i>
<i>Brachyponera</i>

Buniapone
Centromyrmex
Cryptopone
Diacamma
Ectomomyrmex
Euponera
Harpegnathos
Hypoponera
Leptogenys
Mesoponera
Myopias
Odontomachus
Odontoponera
Parvaponera
Platythyrea
Ponera
Pseudoneoponera
Pseudoponera

Proceratiinae

Discothyrea
Probolomyrmex
Proceratium

Pseudomyrmecinae

Tetraponera

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