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Three tramp Dacetine ants in Taiwan

Chung-Chi Lin, Tung-Yi Huang

The species of *Strumigenys* of ant tribe Dacetini are very small predatory ants that generally feed on springtails and other tiny soil arthropods. In Taiwan, 28 species *Strumigenys* have been recorded including two exotic species, *S. emmae* and *S. membranifera*. The first record of the tropical tramp ant, *S. rogeri* is reported from Taiwan and East Asia in 2008. *Strumigenys rogeri* is reported as originated in tropical Africa, but has achieved broad distributions in the Old World and New World more than 400 sites. Whereas *S. rogeri* and *S. emmae* are almost exclusively tropical, *S. membranifera* has spread to higher latitudes. The three tramps ants have spread to invaded areas through human commerce of Taiwan, probably spread through transport of soil and potted plants, common in urban lawns, gardens, cultivated fields, and dense forest. In the present study, we investigated the situation of tiny dacetine ants from villages and towns in west Taiwan. Field work was carried out from 2009 to 2012. Between August 2009 and July 2012 surveyed using hand collecting and nest collection. Between March 2011 and May 2012 systematic collecting was carried out along by north-south longitudinal provincial highway (No.1, 460 km-long and No. 438 km-long) to the conducted surveys using winkler bag. The results show *S. emmae* and *S. membranifera* are island-wide distribution and occur disturbed village and urban environments. *S. rogeri* has a central-south distribution and occurs lower disturbed natural park, grassland and forest margins. These tramp ants occur at low-elevation sites (< 300m).