

A new species of *Monomorium* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Kuwait

by Mike J. Lush

Abstract. The Middle East contains a large number of species of *Monomorium* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), with 53 species known from the Arabian peninsula alone. To this list is added a new species from Kuwait, *Monomorium subcomae* Lush, n.sp., which is described in detail. Within the current concept of the genus, *M. subcomae* is placed within the *areniphilum*-complex of the *salomonis*-group, along with seven other Arabian species. A simple diagnosis is given to allow separation from other *Monomorium* of the Arabian Peninsula.

Keywords. ant, Solenopsidini, *areniphilum*-complex, *salomonis*-group, *Monomorium subcomae* Lush n.sp., Arabian Peninsula

Introduction

The genus *Monomorium* Mayr, 1855 is large, containing 415 currently valid species and subspecies worldwide (AGOSTI & JOHNSON 2005, BOLTON 1995). The Arabian Peninsula has a rich *Monomorium* fauna, with 53 species recorded by COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI (1996). Nine species of *Monomorium* have been previously recorded from Kuwait (COLLINGWOOD 1985, COLLINGWOOD & AGOSTI 1996). These are: *M. abeillei* André, 1881, *M. areniphilum* Santschi, 1911, *M. buettikeri* Collingwood & Agosti, 1996, *M. buxtoni* Crawley, 1920, *M. destructor* (Jerdon, 1851), *M. hemame* Collingwood & Agosti, 1996, *M. nitidiventre* Emery, 1893, *M. salomonis* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *M. venustum* Smith, 1858. To this a further species should be added.

Material and methods

Ant specimens were received from collections made by David M. KING. Amongst the specimens from Kuwait was a single collection of nine *Monomorium* workers that were distinct from all other known extant species worldwide.

The measurements and indices used to describe this species are:

Head-Mesosoma-petiole-postpetiole Length (HML). Following HETERICK (2006), this was calculated as sum of the head length (HL), mesosoma length (ML), and petiole and postpetiole length. Petiole and postpetiole length was measured from the apex of the metapleural lobe to the posterior margin of the postpetiole. Measurements were performed with the ant in profile.

Head Length (HL). The length of the head, excluding the mandibles, measured in a straight line from the mid-point of the anterior clypeal margin to the mid-point of the posterior margin of the head, in full face view.

Head Width (HW). The maximum width of the head in full-face view, excluding the compound eyes.

Cephalic Index (CI). Determined by the formula: $CI = (HW \times 100) / HL$.

Scape Length (SL). The maximum straight-line length of the scape, excluding the condylar bulb