

INDOMYRMA DASYPYX, NEW GENUS AND SPECIES,
A MYRMICINE ANT FROM PENINSULAR INDIA
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A new myrmicine genus *Indomyrma* is raised for a single new species, *I. dasypyx*, from the Western Ghats of peninsular India. The new genus is close to *Dacatinops* (Malaysia to New Guinea), but lacks spongiform appendages of the waist segments found in the latter, and the male has peculiar, deformed antennal funiculi. Worker and queen have 11-merous antennae (3-merous club), male antennae 12-merous; palpi segmented 2,2. Larvae much like those of *Dacatinops*. Chromosomes $n=12$ metacentrics. Malpighian tubules 5 in all castes, both sexes, not cryptonephric. The ants nest in rotten wood in shady broadleaf forest at elevations of 650-1000m, and are primarily insectivorous, living in colonies of 10-500 workers. **KEY WORDS:** Ants, Formicidae, Myrmicinae, India, chromosomes, Malpighian tubules, antennae.

INTRODUCTION

The species described below is an original. It is a typical myrmicine, but cannot be referred to any particular tribe of the currently chaotically organized subfamily. I have supplied as many character states for classification as are available under present standards. The genus appears to be a member of the morphocline leading from the *Myrmica* genus-group to *Dacatinops* (Brown and Wilson, 1957; Taylor, 1965), and in fact may be regarded as a *Dacatinops* precursor. This genus and species is described in honor of Prof. Jehoshua Kugler, of Tel Aviv University.

Indomyrma Brown new genus

Diagnosis, worker: Monomorphic myrmicine ant with 11-merous antennae and 3-merous antennal club, similar to *Dacatinops*, but with the following principal differences.

- (1) Spongiform appendages completely lacking (on petiole, postpetiole and base of gaster).
- (2) Petiole nodiform, with distinct anterior peduncle.