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RusAnt - a new integrated data base and electronic illustrated catalogue of Russian ants

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Abstract

In recent years, the world's interest in the study and assessment of ant biodiversity is growing. There are a number of projects dedicated to the study of biodiversity and biogeography of ants (AntWeb.org, GABI, antmaps.org, etc.). However, despite that summarized data on the ant diversity, data from world's largest country, Russia, are practically not available. In this report, the findings of a new project on the assessment of diversity of Russian ants (RusAnt) are presented. Based on our data, Russian ant fauna includes more than 300 species of 40 genera in 5 subfamilies. Most diverse subfamilies, both on generic and species levels, are Myrmicinae (21 genera) and Formicinae (10 genera). Each of the subfamilies, Dolichoderinae and Ponerinae contains 4 genera. Only one species, *Proceratium melinum* (Roger), belongs to subfamily Proceratiinae. We hope that our project will allow to fill the gaps in our knowledge about the current species composition of the ant fauna and the distribution of Russian species.

Key words: Ants, biodiversity, data base, Russia.