

**Worker ant community observed in two rainy months and related information  
in a selected region of "Indikada Mukalana" Forest Reserve,  
a habitat of *Aneuretus simoni* Emery**

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Worker ant community (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) of a selected region in "Indikada Mukalana" Forest Reserve, a habitat of island endemic, *Aneuretus simoni* Emery, was investigated using quadrat method for the nests and pitfall traps for the workers in two rainy months, December, 2015 and February, 2016. Twenty, 1 m<sup>2</sup> quadrats were laid at each of the two, 10 x 10 m<sup>2</sup> plots in each locality at 159 m and 291 m elevations. Hundred pitfall traps were set along eight transects at 4 m distance at each elevation and collected after six hours. Collected ants were preserved in 70% ethanol and identified to the possible taxonomic levels using a low power stereo-microscope. Mean nest density, percentage frequency of nest occurrence and percentage frequency of worker occurrence out of 100 pitfall traps, for each ant species were calculated. Mean values of air temperature ( $24 \pm 0.05$  °C), soil temperature ( $21 \pm 0.04$  °C), depth of leaf litter ( $4 \pm 1.1$  cm), soil humidity ( $48.3 \pm 2.4$  %), soil organic matter ( $23.2 \pm 3.3$  %) at the region were also measured using standard methods. Nests of 29 species of 19 genera in 5 subfamilies including that of *A. simoni* only at 291 m elevation were recorded. The highest values for mean percentage frequency of nest occurrence, 32 %, mean nest density, 0.32 m<sup>-2</sup>, and frequency of worker occurrence, 20.7 %, were observed for *Odontomachus simillimus* Smith F. whereas mean percentage frequency of nest occurrence, mean nest density and frequency of worker occurrence of *A. simoni* were 8 %, 0.08 m<sup>-2</sup> and 5.6 %, respectively. Thirty seven species in 25 genera of 6 subfamilies, Aneuretinae, Dolichoderinae, Formicinae, Myrmicinae, Ponerinae and Pseudomyrmecinae recorded on the two occasions can be considered an inventory for the region.

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