

**A new species of the genus *Gesomyrmex* Mayr, 1868
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Vietnam**

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**Новый вид рода *Gesomyrmex* Mayr, 1868
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae) из Вьетнама**

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Abstract. A new species, *Gesomyrmex tobiassi* sp. n., is described for a single female from Vietnam. This new species differs from female of *G. luzonensis* Wheeler by the higher thorax, and the structures of petiole and clypeus; differs from other extant species also by structure of petiole with protruding lobe and clypeus with two lateral protruding teeth. This is the sixth extant species in the poorly-known genus *Gesomyrmex*. The other five living species in the genus are known from widely scattered localities in Oriental Region.

Key words. Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Gesomyrmex*, new species, Vietnam.

Резюме. Приводится описание самки нового вида муравьев *Gesomyrmex tobiassi* sp. n. из Вьетнама. Новый вид отличается от самки *G. luzonensis* Wheeler более высокой грудью и структурами петиолюса и клипеуса; от других рецентных видов отличается также наличием лопасти на петиолюсе и клипеусом с 2 латеральными зубцами. *G. tobiassi* sp. n. является шестым рецентным видом этого слабоизученного рода; остальные его 5 видов описаны из различных мест Ориентальной области.

Ключевые слова. Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Gesomyrmex*, новый вид, Вьетнам.

Introduction

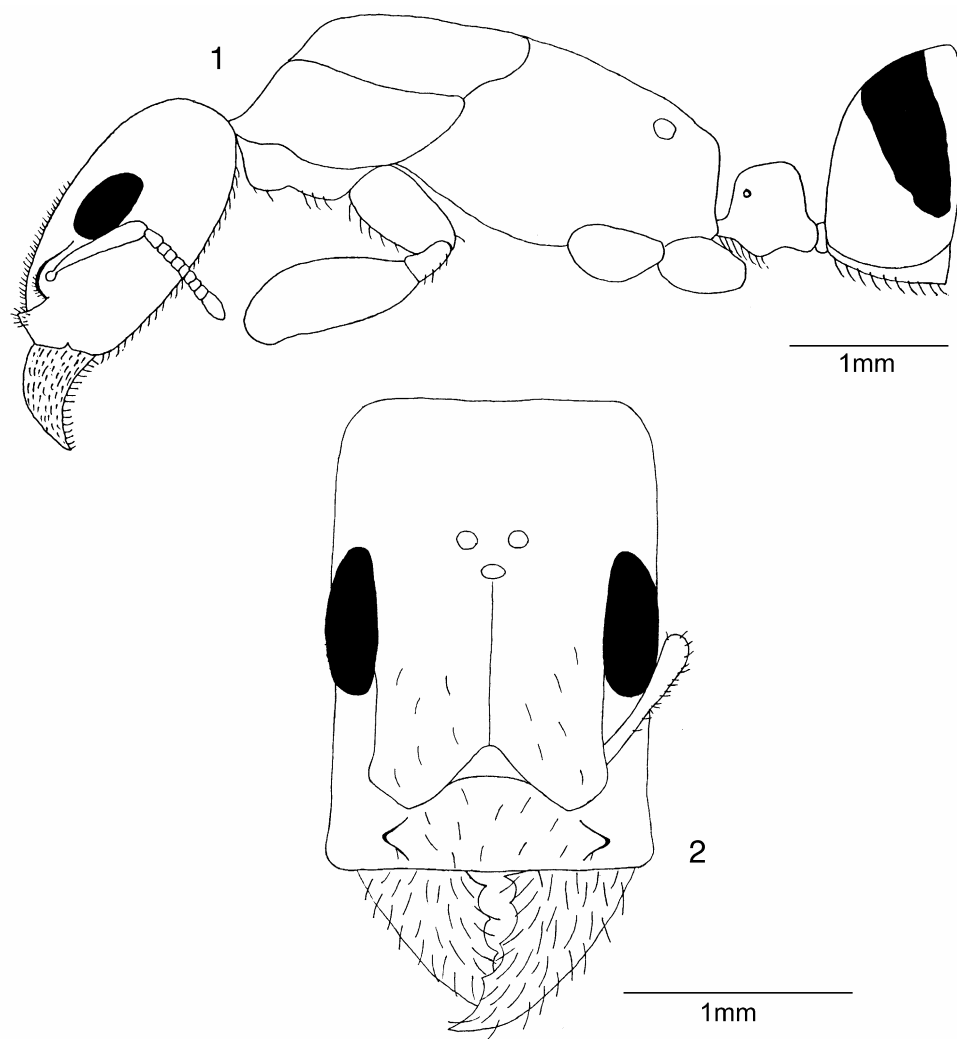
The genus *Gesomyrmex* was established by G. Mayr (1868) for a single species from Baltic amber (Lower Oligocene). Currently, this genus is known from three extinct and a five extant species (Bolton, 1995). The four extant species (*G. chaperi* Andre, *G. howardi* Wheeler, *G. kalshoveni* Wheeler and *G. spatulatus* Cole) are known only from worker specimens, and *G. luzonensis* Wheeler is a first living species that was described from a single female. The workers of this genus have 8-jointed antennae and soldiers of *G. chaperi* Andre have 9-jointed antennae (Wheeler, 1916), whereas females have 10-jointed antennae. Members of this genus are very rare and ancient forms. The population of their nests is small, and they live in small branches of trees (Cole, 1949b). Identification key to five living *Gesomyrmex* species was published by Cole (1949a).

In collections of the Laboratory of Insect Taxonomy of Zoological Institute RAS (ZISP) I have found a single female of the genus *Gesomyrmex* collected by Dr. S. Belokobylskij in Vietnam. I believe that this specimen belongs to a new species, which is described and figured follow.

The following linear measurements (in mm) and indices are cited: HL — head length, from the posterior margin of the head to the anterior extremity of the clypeus; HW — maximum width of head including the eyes; SL — scape length, excluding the condylar bulb; OL — maximum length of eyes; TL — mesosoma length from the base of anterior slope of pronotum to the lower posterior angle of propodeum; TH — maximum height of mesosoma; FL — femur length; FW — maximum width of femur; PL — petiole length; PH — petiole height, including protruding lobe at the ventral extremity of the petiole; CI — cephalic index (HW/HL); SI — scape index (OL/SL), FI — femur index (FW/FL); PI — petiole index (PH/PL); TI — thorax index (TL/TH).

***Gesomyrmex tobiassi* Dubovikov, sp. n. (Figs 1, 2).**

Diagnosis. The new species differs from female *G. luzonensis* Wheeler by the higher thorax, and the structures of petiole and clypeus (soldiers of species of this genus are morphologically similar to fe-



Figs 1, 2. *Gesomyrmex tobiassi* sp. n. 1 — body, lateral view; 2 — head, dorsal view.

male). *G. tobiasi* sp. n. differs from other extant species (only workers are known) also on structure of petiole with protruding lobe and clypeus with two lateral protruding teeth.

Description. Total length about 9.5 mm. Body yellow, mandibles and each of the tergites (in median part) castaneous. Head oblong, rectangular, about 1.5 times as long as broad (Fig. 2). Surface of clypeus, frons and genae longitudinally striated. Vertex covered with minute and scattered punctures. Eyes large, nearly 0.33 times as long as the head. Antennae 10-jointed. Scape is relatively short, its length approximately equal of eyes length. Terminal joint is oblong. The clypeus with two protruding teeth in their lateral parts directed to genae. Mesosoma oblong, its length about 2.5 times as long as height. Slope of pronotum is moderately steep (Fig. 1), as distinct from *G. luzonensis* Wheeler. Petiole with protruding lobe at the ventral extremity. Hairs situated on the middle part of frons and clypeus, the gular surface of the head, the ventral surfaces of cervum, protruding lobe of petiole and the sternites (Fig. 1).

Measurements. HL = 2.125, HW = 1.5, SL = 0.75, OL = 0.65, FL = 1.2, FW = 0.55, TL = 3.625, TH = 1.425, PL = 0.675, PH = 0.55, CI = 0.706, SI = 0.867, FI = 0.458, PI = 0.815, TI = 2.544.

Material. Holotype: ♀, Vietnam, Hoa Binh Prov., Mai Chau Distr., 40 km W Mai Chau, Pa Co, h = 1090, 19 IV 2002 (Belokobylskij) (ZISP).

Etymology. The species is named for Vladimir Ivanovich Tobias, a famous Russian entomologist, who helped me in my work with ant collections of ZISP for many years.

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