

***Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov. from Suriname (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)**

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Abstract: A new species of *Thaumatomyrmex*, *T. soesilae* sp. nov. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) is described from Suriname in South America.

Introduction

The genus *Thaumatomyrmex* Mayr, 1887, forms a small genus with 8 species: *Thaumatomyrmex atrox* Weber from Guiana, *Thaumatomyrmex cochlearis* Creighton, 1928 (Cuba), *Thaumatomyrmex contumax* Kemf, 1975 (Brazil), *Thaumatomyrmex ferox* Mann, 1922 (Honduras), *Thaumatomyrmex manni* Weber, 1939 (Bolivia), *Thaumatomyrmex mutilatus* Mayr, 1887 (Brazil), *Thaumatomyrmex paludus* Weber, 1942 (Venezuela) and *Thaumatomyrmex zeteki* Smith, 1944 (Panama). *Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov. is the first species from Suriname. The species was collected from Mount Kasikasima. The holotype is deposited in the collection of the University of Suriname, Department of Entomology, Paramaribo, Suriname.

***Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov. (Figs. 1-3)**

Holotype worker. Suriname , Kasikasima, 27.3.1996, coll. D. Makhan (only the holotype).

Description (holotype worker): Length 3.4 mm. Colour black, smooth and shiny. Total head length 1.5 mm , width 0.8 mm, with thick hairs, mandible length 0.8 mm , with a small tooth at base and 3 large teeth, and with long hairs. Eyes large. Antennae yellow-brown, scape with fine hairs. Mesosoma 1.0 mm, width 0.5 mm, straight on posterior side and with thick hairs. Petiole 0.4 mm, with thick hairs. Gaster 1.3 mm, width 0.8 mm, with thick hairs. Legs yellow-brown.

Etymology: This species is named after my wife, Soesila Makhan.

Remarks: *Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov. is very similar to *Thaumatomyrmex contumax* Kemf, 1975 from Brazil, but there is a difference in the shape of mesosoma. The posterior side of the mesosoma is straight in *Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov., whereas the mesosoma is not straight in *Thaumatomyrmex contumax* Kemf.

Reference

Kempf, W. (1975). A revision of the Neotropical ponerine ant genus *Thaumatomyrmex* Mayr (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Stud. Entomol.* 18: 95-126.

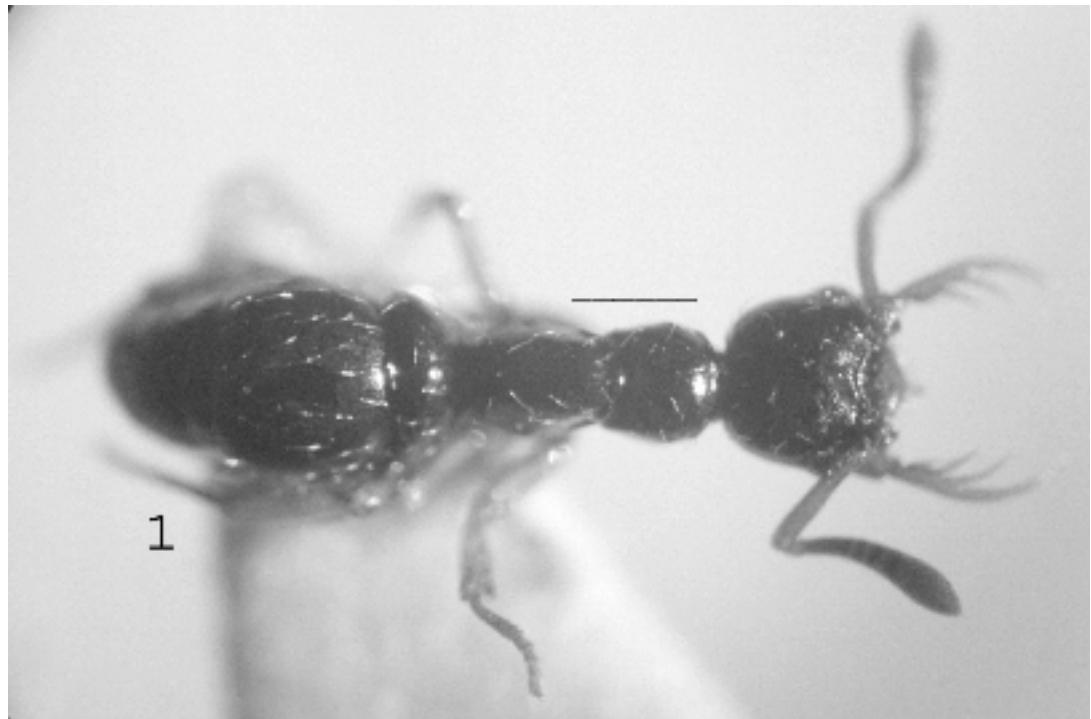


Fig. 1. *Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov. Habitus, dorsal side (scale line = 0.5 mm).

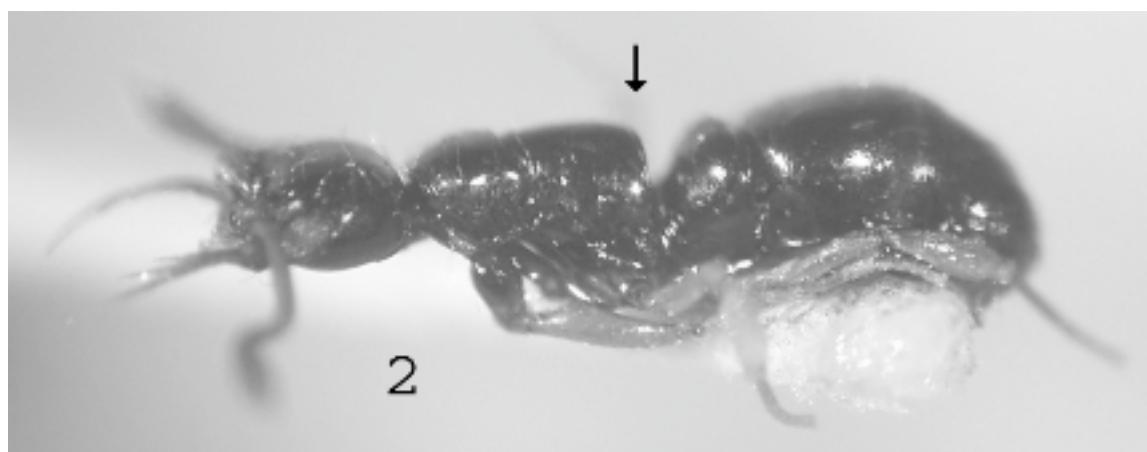


Fig. 2. *Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov. Habitus, lateral side.

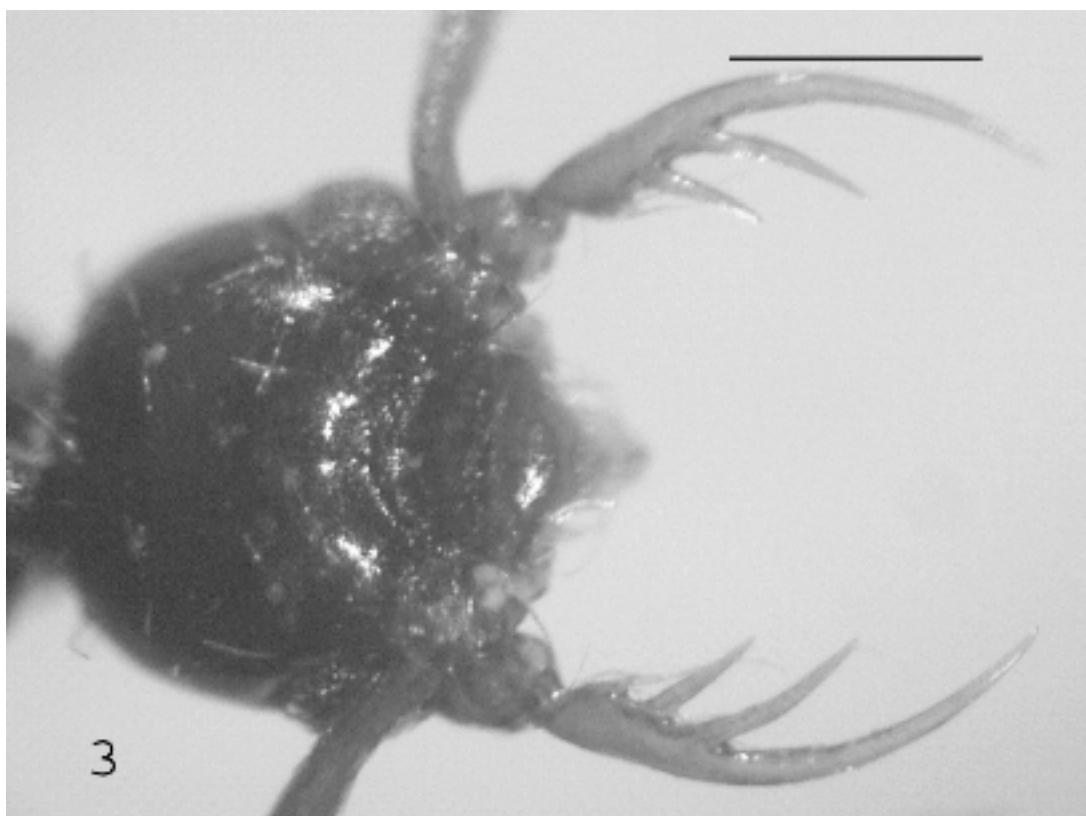


Fig. 3. *Thaumatomyrmex soesilae* sp. nov. Head (scale line = 0.4 mm).

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