

Additional records for the Iranian fauna of Formicidae (Hymenoptera)

by Siavosh Tirgari and Omid Paknia

Few species of the ant family Formicidae have so far been reported from Iran. Twenty-five species belonging to 13 genera of the subfamilies Myrmicinae, Formicinae and Dolichoderinae have been reported previously (ALIPANAH 1995, 2000a, 2000b, 2004). In this study, five species of Myrmicinae and Formicinae are reported from the Fars province of Iran, four of which are considered to be new records. The specimens were collected in pitfall traps and directly from colonies.

Myrmicinae

Messor galla (Mayr, 1904)

Material: 6 ♀ (workers), Lar city (Fars province), 915 m, 9.7.2002.

Distribution: Africa, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Yemen. New to Iran

Tetramorium ferox Ruzesky, 1903

Material: 4 ♀ (workers), Lar city (Fars province), 915 m, 15.7.2002.

Distribution: Not available. New to Iran.

Pheidole sinaitica Mayr, 1862

Material: 4 ♀ (workers), Lar city (Fars province), 915 m, 17.10.2001.

Distribution: Middle East and North Africa. New to Iran.

Formicinae

Polyrhachis lacteipennis F. Smith, 1858

Material: 6 ♀ (workers), Lar city (Fars province), 915 m, 17.10.2001.

Distribution: Middle East and India.

Camponotus fellah Dalla Torre, 1893

Material: 6 ♀ (workers), Lar city (Fars province), 915 m, 15.7.2002.

Distribution: North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, U.A.E. Oman and Yemen. New to Iran.

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First record of *Libellula fulva pontica* Selys, 1887 (Odonata, Anisoptera) from Iran

by Saber Sadeghi and Henri J. Dumont

On 4 September 2001, S. ALIZADEH collected a small series of *Libellula pontica* at Hafar-e-Sharghi, Khoozestan province, SW Iran. The collecting site, about 25 km from Abadan City, is a drainage area not far from the Karoun River. Two male specimens were submitted to us and constitute the first record of the occurrence of this taxon in Iran, bringing the total number of dragonfly species known from the country to 96 (HEIDARI & DUMONT 2002).

The status of *L. pontica* is unsettled, although of late it has usually been accorded full species status (DUMONT 1991, KALKMAN et al. 2003). It is characterized by a triangular brown-black spot at the base of each hind-wing, smaller than a similar spot in the related *Libellula fulva* (Müller, 1764), and by an abdomen with a reddish-brown dorsum, without any trace of blue pruinosity at maturity (LOPAU & WENDLER 1995). In this, it contrasts with *L. fulva*, which always becomes pruinose blue when mature. Another characteristic is its size, which is smaller than that of *L. fulva*. No long series of *L. pontica* was available to us, but the Khoozestan male had an abdomen length (including the anal appendages) of 25.5 mm, which is much like two males (in the collection of HJD) from the type locality, Lake Hula in the Upper Jordan Valley (25 mm), and two males from the Kadirli area, Adana Province, Turkey (26 mm). Males of *Libellula fulva* from Western Europe typically show an abdomen length of 28–29 mm. We searched in vain for structural differences in the male accessory genitalia, and in the female valvules.

It is currently unclear where the boundaries of the range of *L. pontica* should be situated. To the north and west it extends to East Anatolia, Georgia and Armenia, but how far west into Anatolia it reaches is currently unknown. It might be limited by the Anatolian diagonal, but this is uncertain (KALKMAN et al. 2003), so that instead of segregation, overlap with