

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### Discovery of *Aneuretus simoni* Emery in a disturbed forest in Kalutara, and *Stereomyrmex horni* Emery in Anuradhapura Sanctuary, Sri Lanka

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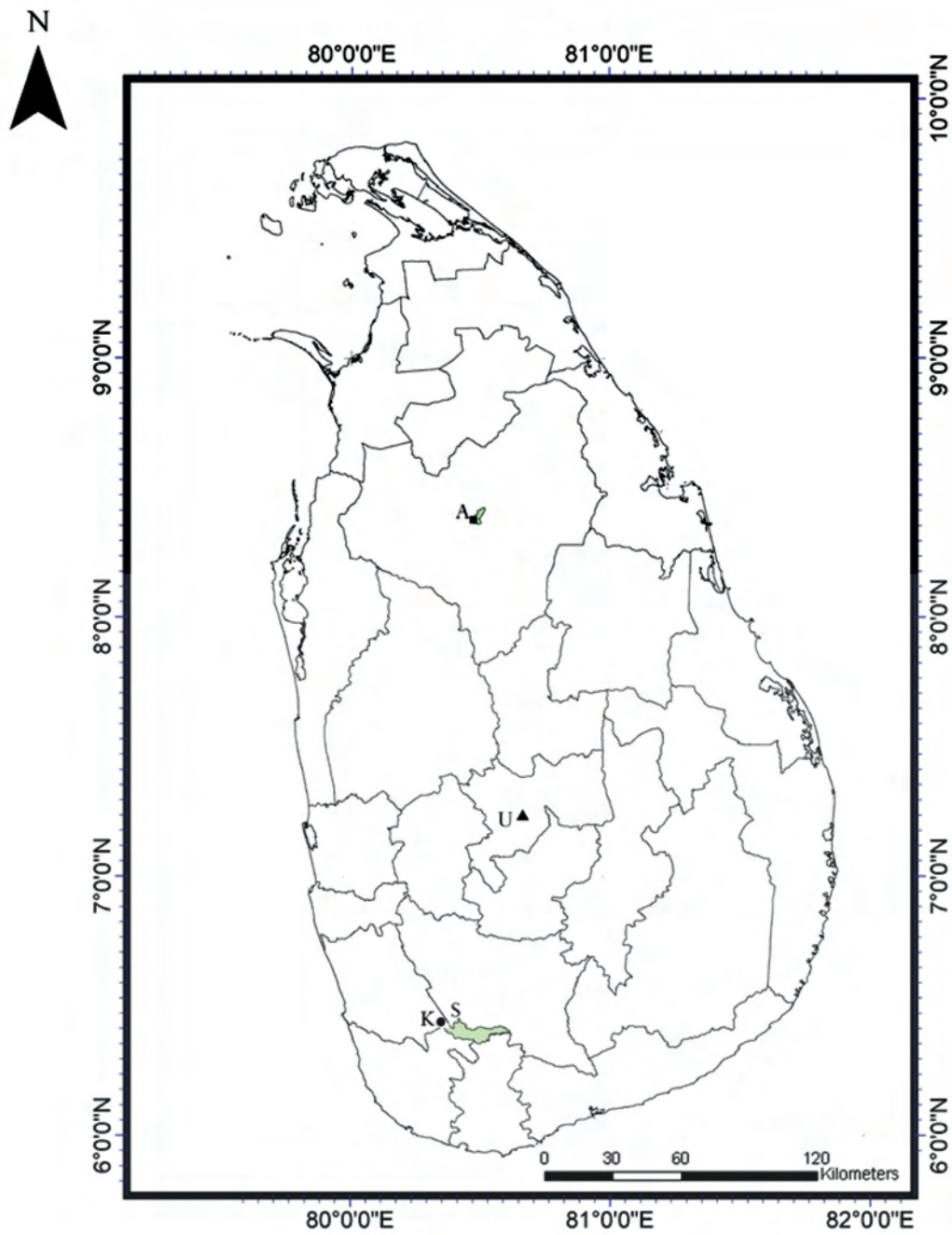
**Keywords:** *Aneuretus simoni* Emery, *Stereomyrmex horni* Emery, Kalutara District, “Kirikanda,” Anuradhapura Sanctuary

The sole extant species of Subfamily Aneuretinae, *Aneuretus simoni* Emery, 1893 (Fig. 1), is endemic to Sri Lanka (Wilson *et al.* 1956; Jayasuriya & Traniello 1985; Bolton 1994, 1995) and has been recorded as a Critically Endangered species by IUCN (2010). It has been recorded from “Udawatta Kele” and Peradeniya in Kandy District and “Pompekelle”—a disturbed forest—and Gilimale and Adam’s Peak Forest Reserves in Ratnapura District (Wilson *et al.* 1956), but in 1979, its presence was confirmed only from Gilimale Forest Reserve (Jayasuriya & Traniello 1985). Recently, *A. simoni* has been recorded from “Pompekelle” (Chaminda & Dias 2001; Dias 2004), from Gilimale Forest Reserve throughout the year 2004 (Dias 2008), and from the Mulawella region of Sinharaja Forest Reserve

(Fig. 2), which is located in Ratnapura District, from 2005 (Perera *et al.* 2006; Dias 2008) to February 2007 (Gunawardene *et al.* 2008). Sinharaja Forest Reserve, a World Heritage site, lies in three districts—Ratnapura, Kalutara and Matara—in the three provinces: Sabaragamuwa, Western and Southern, respectively (Gunawardene 2003). Here we discovered a group of *A. simoni* workers (collector: H.P.G.R.C. Ruchirani) in December 2009 and two colonies of the species in January 2010 from the floor of a wet evergreen rainforest, “Kirikanda” (06°25'N, 80°20'E; elevation 112 m), which lies very close to the Sinharaja boundary in Kalutara District (Fig. 3). This finding extends the range of the species to Kalutara District and indicates that its status should be re-assessed.



**Fig. 1.** Profile view of an *Aneuretus simoni* worker.



**Fig. 2.** Map showing the previous locality “Udawatta Kele” (U) (and nearby Peradeniya) in Kandy, and recent localities Sinharaja Forest (S) and “Kirikanda” (K.), of *Aneuretus simoni* and Anuradhapura Sanctuary (A), the new site for *Stereomyrmex horni*.

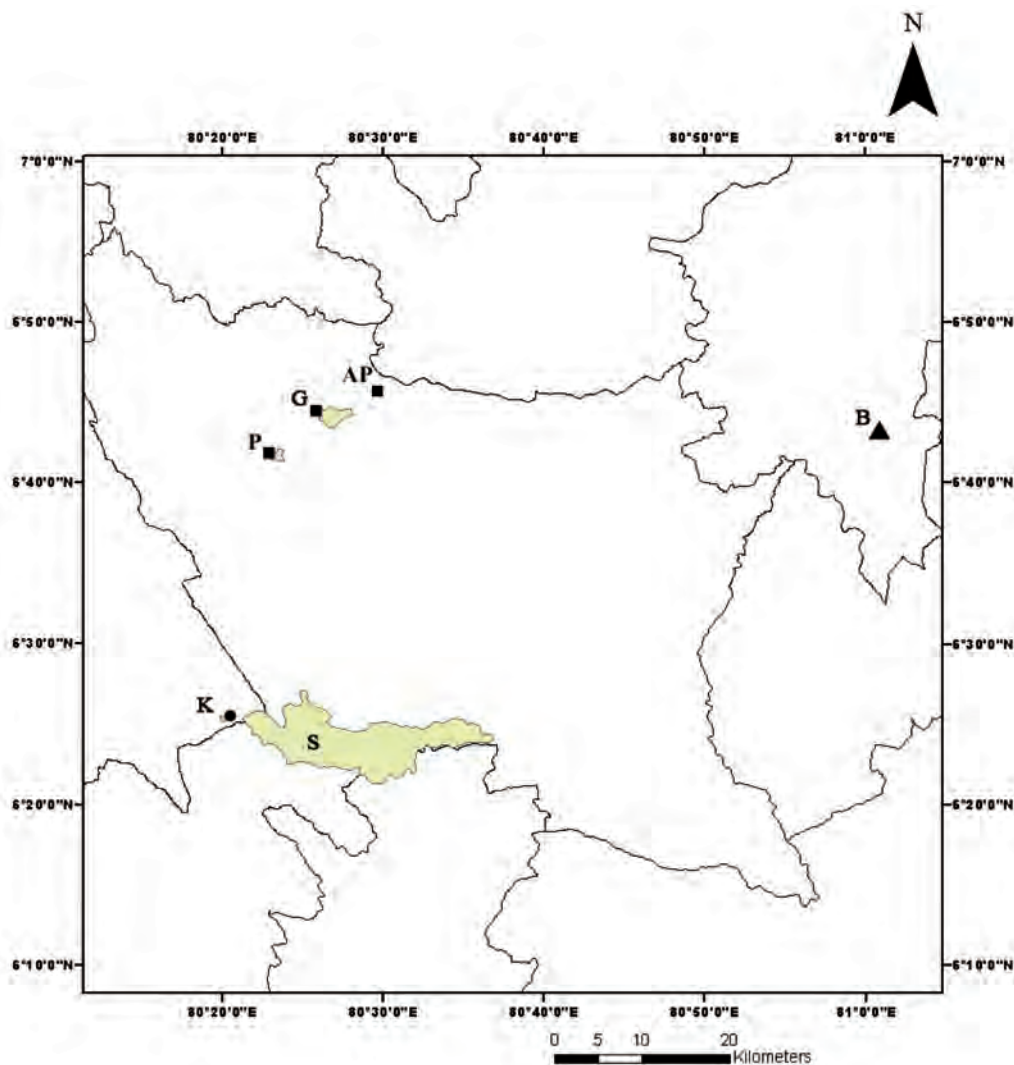


Fig. 3. Enlarged map of Ratnapura District and parts of Kalutara and Badulla Districts, showing recent locations (AP = Adam's Peak Reserve, P = "Pompekelle", G = Gilimale Forest, S = Sinharaja Forest, K = "Kirikanda" Forest) of *Aneuretus simoni* and the approximate original location of *Stereomyrmex horni* (B = Bandarawela town).

A myrmicine ant, *Stereomyrmex horni* Emery, 1901 (Fig. 4) is another species endemic to Sri Lanka. The genus was established by Emery (1901) based on a newly described species collected in Bandarawella, Sri Lanka (see also Bingham 1903; Bolton 1995, 2003). Bolton (2003) synonymised *Willowskiella* Wheeler, 1934 with *Stereomyrmex*. Of the two species formerly in *Willowskiella*, *S. anderseni* Taylor, 1991 is known from Northwestern Australia, and *S. dispar* Wheeler, 1934 from the Solomon Islands. In February 2008, two workers of *S. horni* were

collected inadvertently at a honey bait (collector: H.A.W.S. Peiris) in a dry mixed evergreen forest, Anuradhapura Sanctuary (08° 20' N, 80° 23' E; elevation 108 m), which is a disturbed forest in North Central Province (Fig. 2); the identification was confirmed by Professor K. Ogata, Kyushu University, Japan. This is the first and only encounter of this species during our ant surveys conducted in the wet and the dry zones of Sri Lanka during 2000–2008 (Dias 2008).



**Fig. 4.** A worker of *Stereomyrmex horni* Emery

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