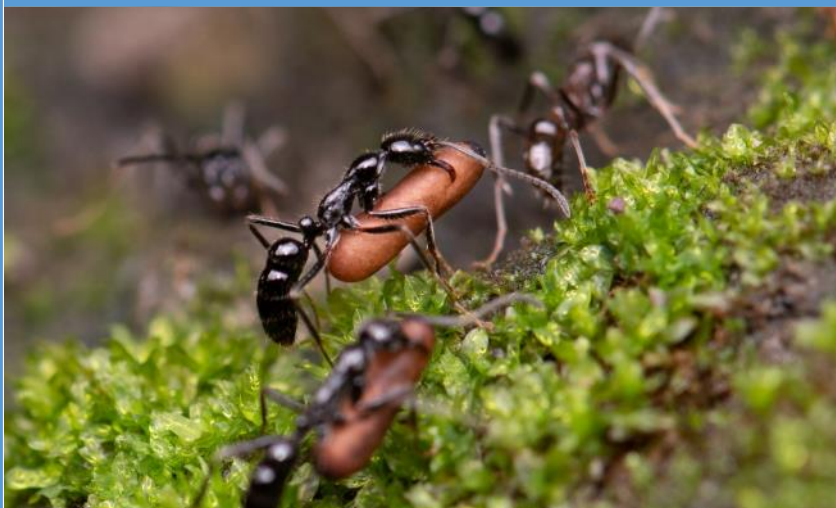




Ants of WII Campus

A compilation of some common Ants of the WII Campus



The Will campus has been a heaven for its residents be it birds, mammals, herpetofauna or the entomofauna. The various habitats it has offers space for these species to thrive. In the campus work done by Valerie S Bansbach in 2013 identified 35 species to the campus list and my collections during my stay during Masters in campus added another 32, taking the total count to more than 67 species. A proper survey of the ants on the campus will likely increase the species count to 100. From the intricate nests of weaver ants to the perfect trails of Razor-jaw ants this book is just a compilation of something I longed to share with others, the world of ants which I admire on every outing in the trail. This book has field photographs of some of the species which you can encounter in the campus and some common species aren't photographed, which I hope to add if possible.

The next time you venture into the trail for birding just stop at a point and gaze on the ground below or on the tree or shrub adjacent to you will find at least 3-4 species moving around, watch them for a while, you will admire the beauty of these miniature artists.

Mohammad Abdus Shakur

S.No	Subfamily	Species	Collector
1	Dolichoderinae	Ochetellus glaber	#
2	Dolichoderinae	Tapinoma indicum	#
3	Dolichoderinae	<i>Tapinoma melanocephalum</i>	* #
4	Dolichoderinae	<i>Technomyrmex albipes</i>	* #
5	Dolichoderinae	<i>Technomyrmex horni</i>	#
6	Dolichoderinae	<i>Technomyrmex rector</i>	*
7	Dolichoderinae	unidentified species 1	#
8	Dorylinae	<i>Dorylus orientalis</i>	#
9	Dorylinae	<i>Lioponera longitarsus</i>	#
10	Dorylinae	<i>Ooceraea biroi</i>	*
11	Formicinae	<i>Camponotus aethiops cachmiriensis</i>	*
12	Formicinae	<i>Camponotus compressus</i>	* #
13	Formicinae	<i>Camponotus mutilarius</i>	* #
14	Formicinae	<i>Camponotus parius</i>	#
15	Formicinae	<i>Camponotus</i> sp1	#
16	Formicinae	<i>Camponotus</i> sp2	#
17	Formicinae	<i>Lepisiota annadalei</i>	#
18	Formicinae	<i>Lepisiota capensis</i>	*
19	Formicinae	<i>Lepisiota integra</i>	#
20	Formicinae	<i>Lepisiota pulchella</i>	#
21	Formicinae	<i>Lepisiota rothneyi</i>	*
22	Formicinae	<i>Lepisiota sericea</i>	#
23	Formicinae	<i>Nylanderia bourbonica</i>	* #
24	Formicinae	<i>Nylanderia indica</i>	* #
25	Formicinae	<i>Oecophylla smaragdina</i>	* #
26	Formicinae	<i>Paratrechina longicornis</i>	* #
27	Formicinae	<i>Polyrhachis illaudata</i>	#
28	Formicinae	<i>Polyrhachis lacteipennis</i>	#
29	Formicinae	<i>Polyrhachis menelas</i>	#
30	Formicinae	<i>Polyrhachis tibialis caligata</i>	#
31	Formicinae	<i>Polyrhachis</i> sp1	#
32	Formicinae	<i>Prenolepis naoroji</i>	#
33	Myrmicinae	<i>Aphaenogaster longiceps</i>	*
34	Myrmicinae	<i>Aphaenogaster smythiesii</i>	* #
35	Myrmicinae	<i>Cardiocondyla minutior</i>	#
36	Myrmicinae	<i>Carebara affinis</i>	* #
37	Myrmicinae	<i>Carebara spinata</i>	*
38	Myrmicinae	<i>Cataulacus granulatus</i>	#
39	Myrmicinae	<i>Crematogaster subnuda</i>	* #
40	Myrmicinae	<i>Lophomyrmex ambiguus</i>	* #
41	Myrmicinae	<i>Meranoplous bicolor</i>	#
42	Myrmicinae	<i>Monomorium pharaonis</i>	* #
43	Myrmicinae	<i>Monomorium</i> sp1	#
44	Myrmicinae	<i>Myrmecaria brunnea_cf</i>	#
45	Myrmicinae	<i>Pheidole indica</i>	* #
46	Myrmicinae	<i>Pheidole megalcephala</i>	*
47	Myrmicinae	<i>Pheidole parva</i>	#
48	Myrmicinae	<i>Pheidole watsoni</i>	*
49	Myrmicinae	<i>Solenopsis geminata</i>	*

50	Myrmicinae	<i>Strumigenys virgila</i>	#
51	Myrmicinae	<i>Tetramorium lanuginosum</i>	*
52	Myrmicinae	<i>Tetramorium salvatum_cf</i>	#
53	Myrmicinae	<i>Tetramorium walshi</i>	#
54	Ponerinae	<i>Anochetus myops</i>	* #
55	Ponerinae	<i>Anochetus validus</i>	#
56	Ponerinae	<i>Bothroponera tessernoda</i>	#
57	Ponerinae	<i>Brachyponera lutieps</i>	* #
58	Ponerinae	<i>Brachyponera nigrita</i>	*
59	Ponerinae	<i>Diacamma indicum</i>	#
60	Ponerinae	<i>Herpagnathos venator</i>	#
61	Ponerinae	<i>Leptogenys diminuta</i>	* #
62	Ponerinae	<i>Leptogenys laeviceps_cf</i>	#
63	Ponerinae	<i>Odontoponera denticulata</i>	* #
64	Ponerinae	<i>Platythrea paralella</i>	#
65	Ponerinae	<i>Pseudoneoponera bispinosa</i>	#
66	Pseudomyrmicinae	<i>Tetraoponera rufonigra</i>	* #
67	Pseudomyrmicinae	<i>Tetraoponera sp1</i>	#

* - Valerie

- Shakur

Note: There are chances some species may have been misidentified but that it is very low, if I happen to revisit the specimens and the identity is updated, they will be updated accordingly.

Key to the icons



Predators



Generalist



Sugar/ Nectar feeder



Forests



Grassland/Garden



Built up



Ground nesting



Arborea nesting



Polymorphic workers



Size



Identification character



Interesting thing



Distribution in India



Tramp species



Painful sting/bite



Not sure

Dorylinae

Dorylus orientalis (Driver ants)



Shakur

Yadu



2.5-3 mm (minor)



Sickle shaped mandibles.



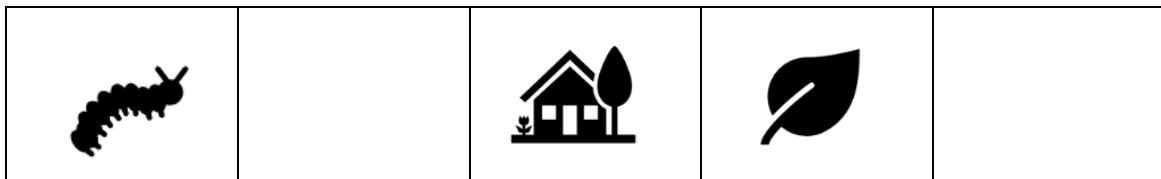
Blind and subterranean ants.




Arunachal Pradesh , Assam, Bihar, Delhi , Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh , Uttarakhand, West Bengal


Dorylinae


Lioponera longitarsus (Cannibal ant)



 3 mm

 Prominent post petiole

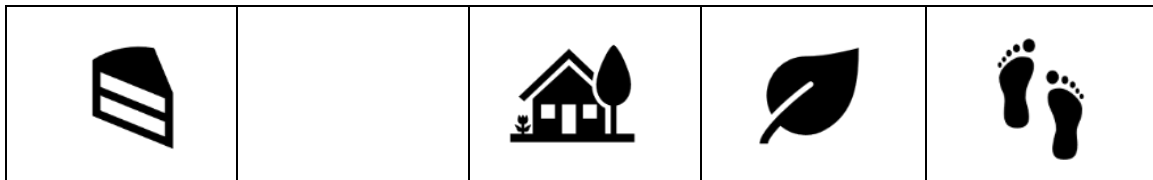
 Known to eats other ants

 Arunachal Pradesh , Assam , Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka,, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Dolichoderinae

Tapinoma melanocephalum (Ghost Ant)

Sarefo/ Wikimedia commons



<2mm



Pale and yellowish white gaster



Pungent smell when crushed



Andaman and Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Dolichoderinae

Technomyrmex albipes (White-footed Ant)



2.5 - 3 mm?



White colored tarsus



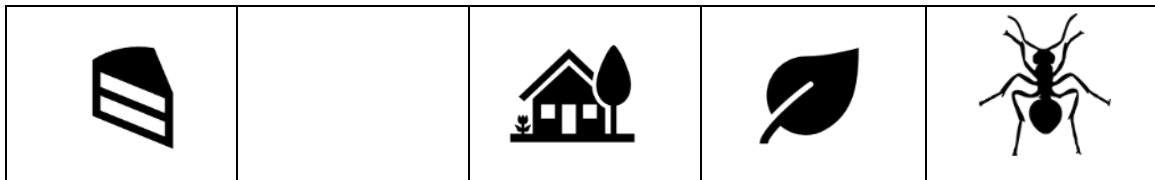
Tend homopterans and is also a pest



Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi , Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh , Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Formicinae

Camponotus compressus (Indian Black Ant)



11-16 mm



Black colored ant



Won't leave once it bites



Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Formicinae

Camponotus sp1



6 - 7 mm?



Honey yellow body and black gaster



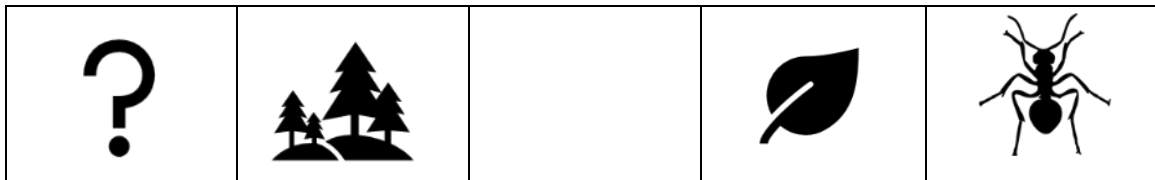
Active at night



Formicinae

Camponotus mutilaris

Shakur



8-12 mm



Black and red colored



Seen frequently on moss beds covered on culverts



Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir,
Punjab, Sikkim, Uttarakhand

Formicinae

Oecophylla smaragdina (Asian Weaver Ant)



Shakur



~12 mm



Nests made up of leaf clusters



Weaves nests with silk produced by larva



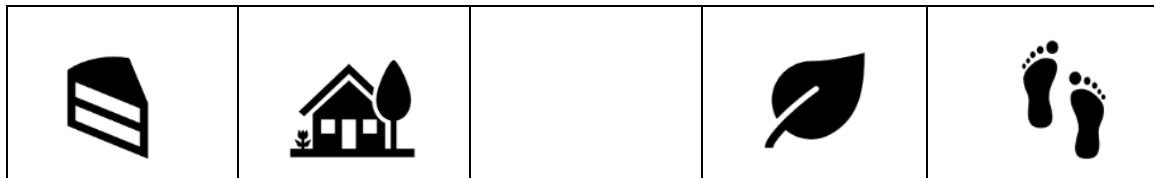
Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Formicinae

Paratrechina longicornis (Black Crazy Ant)



Yadu



2-3mm



Long and slender antennal scape



Seen scurrying in kitchens & moves crazily when disturbed



Andaman & Nicobar, **Andhra Pradesh**, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Formicinae

Polyrhachis illaudata (Silky Sugar Ant)



3.5 mm?



Golden pubescence all-over the body



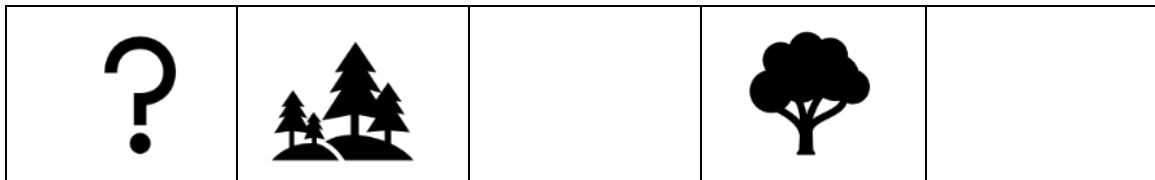
Nest underneath tree bark



Andaman & Nicobar , Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Formicinae

Polyrhachis menelas



5-7 mm?



Granulate body and spines



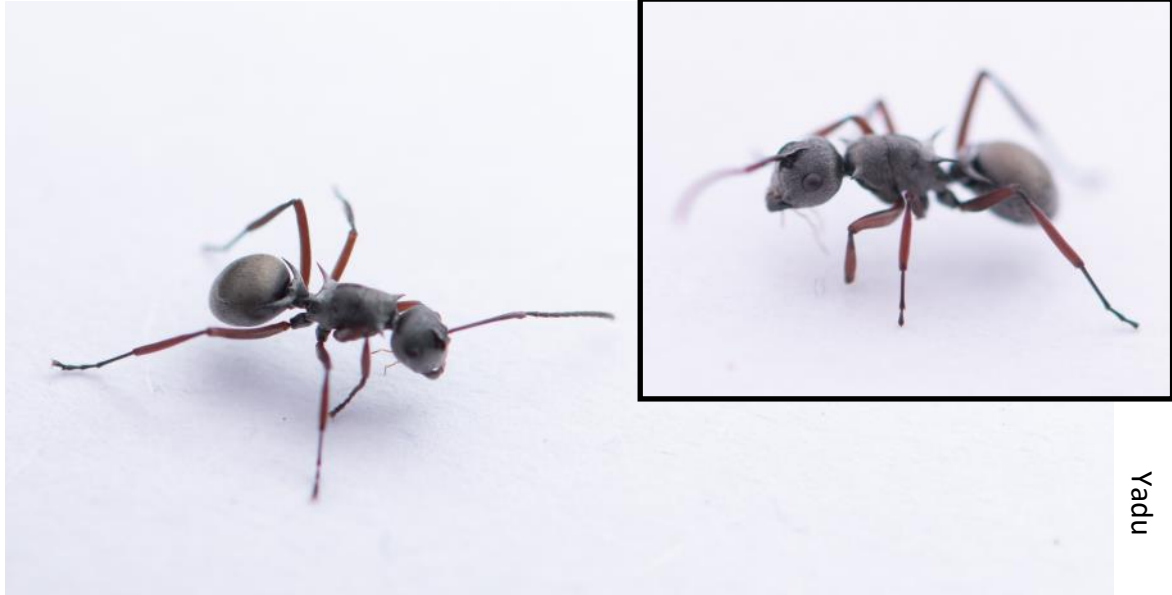
Nest on trees



Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttarakhand

Formicinae

Polyrhachis tibialis



4-6 mm?



Small and covered with grayish hairs



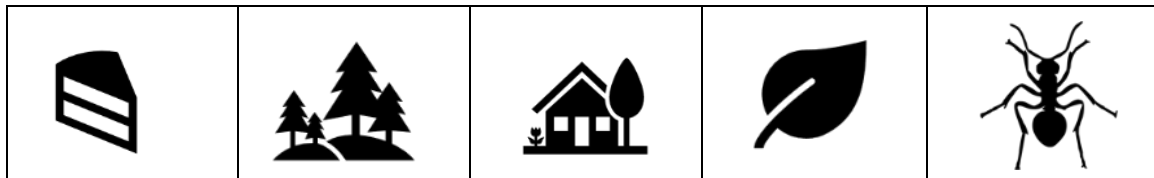
Smallest *Polyrhachis* I encountered on campus



Andaman & Nicobar , Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Myrmicinae

Carebara sp1 (Marauder ants)



mm?



Nests near to moist areas (below mango tree near old hostel)



Alates emerge during heavy rains at midnight.

Genera can be identified by having two clubbed (enlarged apical segments) antennae

Myrmicinae

Meranoplus bicolor (Shield Ant)



Michele Esposito/ antweb-casent0119844



3 - 5mm



The mesosoma is fused to form a shield with spines



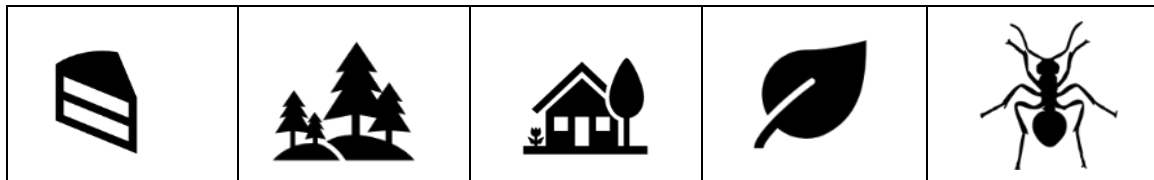
Curl up as a measure of defense



Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Myrmicinae

Crematogaster sp (Cocktail / Acrobat Ants)



-



Heart shaped abdomen, Hold their abdomen like a scorpion when threatened



Nests arboreally ranging from hollow twigs to *Ziziphus* fruits



-

Myrmicinae

Cataulacus granulatus (Turtle Ant)



5-6 mm?



Thick setae all over legs and antennae



Curl up as a defence mechanism



Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Har-
yana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala,
Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Utta-
rakhhand, West Bengal

Myrmicinae

Strumigenys virgila (Sanppy detritus Ant)



~2 mm?



One of the smallest in campus



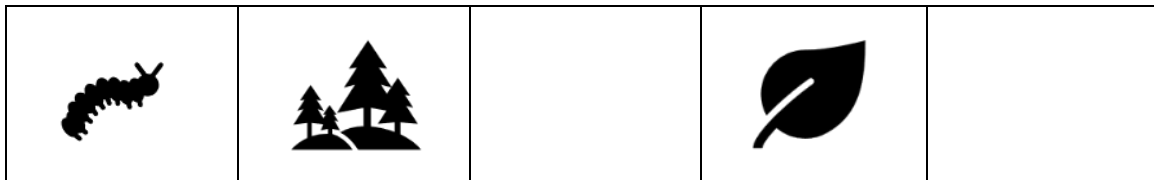
Have unique heart shaped head



Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, **Uttarakhand**, West Bengal

Ponerinae

Anochetus myops (False Trapjaw Ant)



3-4 mm?



Forward projecting mandibles & orangish body



Snap shut their mandibles to catch prey



Arunachal Pradesh , Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim,
Uttarakhand , West Bengal

Ponerinae

Anochetus validus (False Trapjaw Ant)



Yadu



5 - 7 mm?



Larger than *A. myops*, has bigger eyes and a darker gaster



Nests in Leaf litter and under rocks



Ponerinae

Diacamma indicum



Shannon Hartman/ antweb-casent0260416



8-10 mm



Body with ridges & Petiole with a pair of spines



Doesn't have a queen caste, instead have a mated worker called gamergate which reproduces

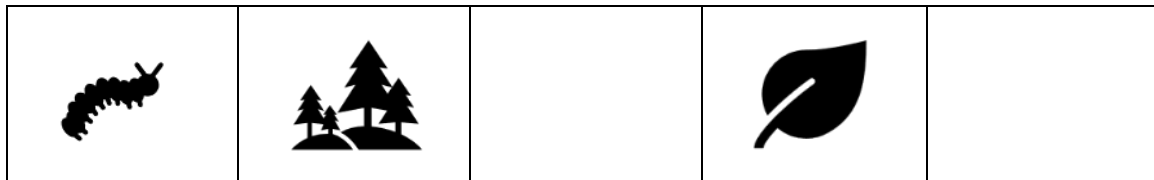


Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, **Uttarakhand**, West Bengal

Ponerinae

Odontoponera denticulata

Ryan perry/ antweb-casent0249125



10-12 mm



Ridges over head and thorax, forked petiole & pointed gaster



Frequently encountered in trail during monsoon, nest entrance is a hole in the ground



Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Ponerinae

Herpagnathos venator (Jumping Ant)



Yadu



12-15 mm



Forward projecting mandibles & longer than head



Jumps to escape or catch prey



Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Ponerinae

Pseudoneoponera bispinosa



Yadu



13-16 mm?



Largest species in campus?



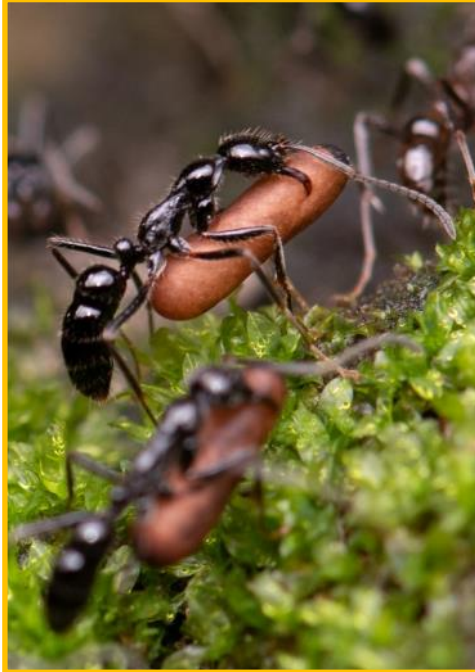
Produces formic acid froth to escape when threatened



Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Ponerinae

Leptogenys laeviceps_cf (Razor Jaw Ants)



Yadu



Shakur



7-8 mm?



Move in columns in leaf litter



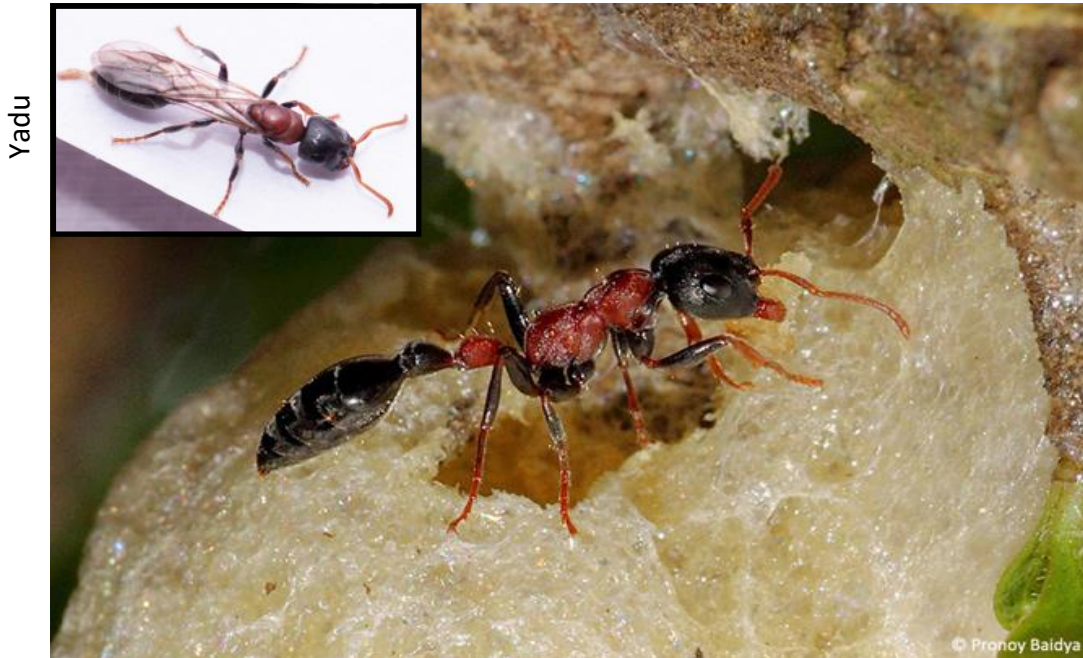
Are nomads and don't have a permanent nest



-

Pseudomyrmicinae

Tetraponera rufonigra (Arboreal Bicolored Ant)



10-12mm



Red and black colored slender ant



Stings very badly



Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

I thank Yathumon for patiently photographing each and every ant that I brought from the trail. I thank the XVII M.Sc. batchmates and all the faculty and researchers who have supported me during the stay in the campus and made this possible.

Mohammad Abdus Shakur



