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CHECKLIST OF THE ANTS OF MICHIGAN (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A total of 113 species of ants is recorded by county from the state of Michigan. The list is based upon literature records and specimens in the authors' collections and those of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology and the Michigan State University Department of Entomology. The list includes 3 species in Ponerinae, 44 in Myrmicinae, 6 in Dolichoderinae, and 60 in Formicinae. Ten species represent new state records. Five distribution patterns are evident: statewide (39 species), southern counties only (5), southern 3/4th of Lower Peninsula (10), Lower Peninsula (17), and Upper Peninsula (2). Forty species have been collected too infrequently to determine the distribution within the state.

The earliest record of ants collected in Michigan is W. M. Wheeler's (1905) description of Formica impexa, collected by O. McCreary in 1902 "on the Porcupine Mountains in northern Michigan" (Ontonagon County). This is the first of five species described from the state. In 1909 W. M. Wheeler described Formica adamsi from Isle Royale (Keweenaw County), collected in 1908. The specimens collected by C. C. Adams, H. A. Gleason, and Otto McCreary from Isle Royale and the Porcupine Mountains in the Upper Peninsula are in the collection of the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan.

F. M. Gaige, curator of insects at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, was the first myrmecologist to live and work in Michigan. In 1910 he collected ants on Charity Island (Arenac County) and published a list of 20 species in 1914. He also published (1916) a list of 15 species from Whitefish Point (Chippewa County) that were collected in 1914 by N. A. Wood. Twenty-eight species are represented in these two studies. Gaige also collected extensively in Schoolcraft and Washtenaw counties but did not publish these studies.

Mary Talbot (1934) included species in extreme southwestern Michigan as part of a study of the ecology of ants in the region around Chicago, Illinois. In 1945 and for several years thereafter she studied the ecology of certain ants at the University of Michigan Biological Station in Cheboygan County (Talbot 1946, 1948). For 25 summers between 1951 and 1980 Talbot conducted research on the ants of the Edwin S. George Reserve in Livingston County. From the research on this 514 ha (1268 acre) sanctuary of the University of

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Michigan she published 20 articles including a list of the 87 species found on the Reserve (1975b). She collected three new species of ants: *Formica gynocrates* Snelling and Buren (1985), *Formica talbotae* Wilson (1976), and *Monomorium talbotae* DuBois (1981). In addition, a specimen that Talbot collected at the Reserve was selected by Wing (1968) as a neotype for *Acanthomyops latipes* (Walsh). There are probably other species that will be described from her collections at the Reserve.

In a study of the ants of the Chicago area Gregg (1944) found 95 species, of which 30 were from Berrien and St. Joseph counties, Michigan. Taxonomic revisions by Creighton (1940), Francoeur (1973), Smith (1947, 1952), Weber (1948, 1950), Wheeler (1910a, 1910b, 1913, 1915), Wilson (1955), and Wing (1968) recorded species from Michigan. Behavioral studies by Groskin (1944) and Kannowski (1957, 1958, 1959a, 1959b, 1959c, 1967, 1970; Kannowski and Kannowski, 1957) were based upon species observed in Michigan.

The list is based upon literature records and 4,692 collections: 2,382 in the Division of Insects, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; 926 in the Department of Entomology, Michigan State University; 1,244 in the Kannowski collection; and 140 in the Wheeler collection. The specimens in the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Kannowski collections were identified by P. B. Kannowski between March 1989 and December 1992; the specimens in the Wheeler collection were checked by Jeanette Wheeler in 1991. Mary Talbot’s collection, which is now in the Department of Biology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, was not checked. However, there is a nearly complete synoptic collection of her records from the E. S. George Reserve in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, which was checked. Two species (*Harpagoxenus canadensis* M.R. Smith and *Smithistruma ornata* [Mayr]) have been included based upon the citation of Michigan as a locality by M. R. Smith (1951 for *H. canadensis*; 1967 for *S. ornata*). David Smith (personal communication, 1991) has been unable to locate the counties or the sources of those records.

Some of the species names used in the literature referenced in this study are either synonyms or misidentifications. There are also several specimens in the Michigan State University collection that were collected by R. R. Dreisbach that appear to be incorrectly labelled. All suspect records have been omitted in this compilation. However, the specimens on which the studies by Gaige (1914, 1916) and Wheeler (1909) were based are in the collection at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. These were re-identified and incorporated into the list.

Michigan has 83 counties, which are shown in Figure 1.

**RESULTS**

A total of 113 species has been identified from the state. There is at least one record from each county, with four counties (Antrim, Genesee, Houghton, and Menominee) having only a single record each (Fig. 2). The most intensively collected counties (Livingston and Washtenaw) are located in the southeastern region of the state. All 88 records for Livingston County are the species recorded by Talbot (1975), with adjustments for recent taxonomic changes. Washtenaw County has many species (67) because four myrmecologists (F. M. Gaige, P. B. Kannowski, and G. C. and J. N. Wheeler) collected there while they were associated with the University of Michigan. Cheboygan County at the northern end of the Lower Peninsula has the third highest number of species (57) due to the collections of P. B. Kannowski, M. Talbot,
and G. C. and J. N. Wheeler in the vicinity of the University of Michigan Biological Station.

Ten species are recorded for the first time from Michigan: Aphaenogaster mariae Forel, Formica argentea Wheeler, F. fossaceps Buren, F. prociliata Kennedy & Dennis, F. querquetulana Kennedy & Dennis, Harpagoxenus...
Figure 2. The number of species recorded from each county in Michigan.

*americanus* (Emery), *Lasius subumbatus* Viereck, *Monomorium pharaonis* (Linn.), *Myrmica alaskensis* Wheeler and *Tetramorium caespitum* (Linn.).

The most frequently collected species is *Tapinoma sessile* (Say), which has been recorded from 65 of the 83 counties. Other species that have been collected in a large proportion of the counties include *Camponotus noveboracensis* (Fitch) (62), *Lasius alienus* (Foerster) (54), *Crematogaster cerasi* (Fitch) (52), *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* (DeGeer) (52), and *Formica subsericea* Say (51).

There are five patterns for distribution within the state. Thirty-nine species can be found throughout the state. Most of these are forest-dwelling species that find suitable habitats in all parts of the state. A few, such as *Myrmica americana* Weber and *Lasius neoniger* Emery, commonly occur in open habitats throughout the state. Five species have distributions limited to the southernmost counties of the Lower Peninsula. Four of these are forest species that are near the northern limits of their distribution; the fifth species,
Figure 3. Lower Peninsula distribution pattern: records for Myrmica americana Weber.

Figure 4. Upper Peninsula distribution pattern (circles): records for Camponotus herculeanus (Linnaeus). Southern counties only distribution pattern (triangles): records for Leptothorax curvispinosus Mayr.

Pheidole bicarinata Mayr, is limited to sand dunes, which have limited occurrence in southern Michigan. Another 10 occur only in the lower two-thirds to three-fourths of the Lower Peninsula, while 17 others occur throughout the Lower Peninsula. Some of these, i.e., Aphaenogaster tennesseensis (Mayr), Camponotus americanus Mayr, and Formica schaufussi Mayr, are species that occur primarily in more southern regions and reach their northern limits near the upper end of the Lower Peninsula. Others may be limited by weak flights from traversing the Straits of Mackinac. Only two species (Camponotus herculeanus (Linn.) and Formica podzolica Francoeur) live primarily in the Upper Peninsula. These are boreal species that have not extended very far below the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula, even though suitable habitat is available. Forty one species have been collected too infrequently to establish their distributions. The records of three species that are representative of different distributions within the state are shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

According to Smith 1979 (and some more recent authors), the North American ranges of 73 species of Michigan ants are intraneous. One species (Monomorium talbotae DuBois) is endemic; one (Monomorium pharaonis) is introduced. One species is near its southern limit in Michigan, 19 reach their northern limits, 8 their eastern limits and 5 their western limits. For five species we have too little information to designate ranges.

Ecologically, Michigan is divided broadly into deciduous forest biome in the southern portion and ecotone (between deciduous and coniferous forest biomes) in the northern portion.

The list that follows is organized by subfamilies following the arrangement in Creighton (1950). Within each subfamily the genera and species are listed alphabetically. Localities are listed by counties in alphabetical sequence.
Information on nests and habitats, unless bracketed by parentheses, is based upon Michigan collections.

**SUBFAMILY PONERINAE**


**SUBFAMILY MYRMICINAE**

*Aphaenogaster fulva* Roger. In logs or stumps in woods. Livingston.

*Aphaenogaster mariae* Forel. Oakland.


*Formicenosus hirticornis* (Emery). (Previously recorded as *Leptothorax hirticornis*.) Xenobiotic in nests of *Formica obscuripes*. Livingston.

*Formicagosus provancheri* (Emery). (Previously recorded as *Leptothorax provancheri*.) Xenobiotic in nests of *Myrmica lobifrons*. Cheboygan.


*Harpagoxenus canadensis* M.R. Smith. (Dulotic on *Leptothorax muscorum*.) "Michigan."


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*Leptothorax muscorum* (Nylander). Under bark in twigs in swamps and bogs. Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Delta, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Keweenaw, Livingston, Mackinac, Marquette, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola, Oscoda, Roscommon, Saginaw, Schoolcraft, Washtenaw..


Myrmica species 1. (Previously recorded as M. emeryana, in part.) In soil in low fields and mesic woods. Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Livingston, Presque Isle, St. Joseph, Washtenaw.

Myrmica species 2. (Recorded by Talbot 1975b as M. spatulata M.R. Smith.) In soil in dry woods. Cheboygan, Grand Traverse, Livingston, Washtenaw.


Smithistruma ornata (Mayr). "Michigan."
Smithistruma pergandei (Emery). In logs or soil in woods. Livingston.
Smithistruma pulchella (Emery). In woods. Livingston.


Tetramorium caespitum (Linnaeus). Introduced; in soil in urban areas. Ingham, St. Joseph, Washtenaw, Wayne.

SUBFAMILY DOLICHODERINAE

Conomyrma grandula (Forel). (Recorded as Dorymyrmex pyramicus (Roger) by Talbot, 1975b.) In soil in sandy ridges. Livingston.


Dolichoderus taschenbergi (Mayr). In domes of plant fragments and soil in woods edges. Cheboygan, Crawford, Delta, Gogebic, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Livingston, Mackinac, Marquette, Mecosta, Montcalm, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Schoolcraft, Van Buren, Wexford.

Tapinoma sessile (Say). In soil, under bark and in dead plant cavities in diverse habitats. Alcona, Alger, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Barry, Bay, Benzie, Berrien, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clare, Clinton, Crawford, Delta, Eaton, Emmet, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Ingham, Iosco, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Lake, Lapeer, Leelanau, Livingston, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette,
SUBFAMILY FORMICINAE

_Acanthomyops claviger_ (Roger). In and/or under stumps and logs or under rocks in woods or the edges of fields. Arenac, Berrien, Cheboygan, Clinton, Crawford, Hillsdale, Ingham, Iosco, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ogemaw, St. Joseph, Washtenaw, Wayne.

_Acanthomyops interjectus_ (Mayr). In stumps, logs and soil in woods. Iosco, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Oscoda, Washtenaw, Wexford.


_Acanthomyops murphyi_ (Forel). Temporary social parasite on _Lasius neoniger_. Under rocks and in soil of grassy habitats. Barry, Kalamazoo, Livingston.

_Acanthomyops plumopilosus_ (Buren). Washtenaw.


_Brachymyrmex depilis_ Emery. In soil in grasslands and woods. Alger, Cheboygan, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Livingston, Montmorency, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Schoolcraft, Washtenaw.

_Camponotus americanus_ Mayr. In soil in grasslands and woods. Allegan, Charlevoix, Iosco, Livingston, Midland, Washtenaw.

_Camponotus caryae_ (Fitch). In twigs and branches in woods. Livingston.


_Camponotus pennsylvanicus_ (DeGeer). In logs and stumps and in dead wood in living trees in dry woods. Alger, Allegan, Arenac, Baraga, Barry, Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Clinton, Eaton, Gene see, Gladwin, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Iron, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lake, Lenawee, Livingston,
Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Monroe, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oscoda, Presque Isle, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Schoolcraft, Shiawassee, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne.


*Formica creightoni* Buren. In logs and soil in woods. Livingston.


*Formica gynocrates* Snelling and Buren. Dulotic on *F. vinculans*. In soil in dry, sparsely vegetated fields. Livingston.


*Formica integra* Nylander. Chippewa, Iosco, Keweenaw, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Montcalm, Muskegon, Oscoda.


*Formica pallidefulva nitidiventris* Emery. In soil, often under objects, in

*Formica pergandei* Emery. Dulotic on *Formica pallidefulva nitidiventris* and *F. subsericea*. In soil in woods edges and field edges. Alpena, Benzie, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Delta, Grand Traverse, Ingham, Iosco, Livingston, Mackinac, Marquette, Mason, Oscoda, Presque Isle, Washtenaw.

*Formica podzolica* Francoeur. In soil in deep woods and swamps. Alger, Alpena, Charlevoix, Chippewa, Delta, Emmet, Gogebic, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Schoolcraft.

*Formica prociliata* Kennedy and Dennis. Grand Traverse, Iosco, Oscoda, Roscommon, Wexford.

*Formica querquetulana* Kennedy and Dennis. Grand Traverse.


*Formica sp.* (microgyna group). Temporary social parasite on *Formica fusca* group species. In soil in woods edge. Livingston.

Lasius flavus (Fabricius). In soil or under rocks in grasslands and open woods. Cheboygan, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Ingham, Jackson, Livingston, Ontonagon, St. Joseph, Schoolcraft, Washtenaw.


Lasius pallitarsis (Provancher). In mounds of soil in low fields, bogs, swamps and marshes. Alger, Charlevoix, Chippewa, Livingston, Mackinac, Marquette, Schoolcraft.


Lasius subumbilatus Viereck. In soil under logs in open woods. Marquette, Schoolcraft.


Paratrechina parvula (Mayr). In soil in woods-field edges and open woods. Allegan, Iosco, Livingston, Manistee, Oscoda, St. Joseph, Washtenaw.


Prenolepis imparis (Say). In soil in a wide variety of habitats from grasslands to deep woods. Allegan, Barry, Clinton, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Ingham, Ionia, Iosco, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Mackinac, Newaygo, Oakland, Oscoda, St. Joseph, Washtenaw.

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