



Taxonomic revision of the Palearctic *Tetramorium chefketi* species complex (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Abstract

The taxonomic status of 10 species of the Palearctic *Tetramorium chefketi* species complex is discussed, and several nomenclatural problems are clarified. Three new species, *Tetramorium exile* Csösz & Radchenko **n. sp.**, *T. sanetraii* Schulz & Csösz **n. sp.**, and *T. anatolicum* Csösz & Schulz **n. sp.** are described. *Tetramorium caespitum* var. *sarkissiani* Forel, 1911 **n. syn.**, *Tetramorium turcomanicum* Santschi, 1921 **n. syn.**, *Tetramorium taurocausicum* Arnoldi, 1968 **n. syn.** are synonymized with *Tetramorium chefketi* Forel 1911; *T. biskrensis kahenae* Menozzi, 1934, **n. syn.** is synonymized with *T. alternans* Santschi, 1929; *T. karakalense* Dlussky & Zabelin, 1985, **n. syn.** is synonymized with *Tetramorium sulcinode* Santschi, 1927. Three taxa, *T. sulcinode* Santschi, 1927, *T. rhodium* Emery, 1922 and *T. annectens* Pisarski, 1969 are revived from synonymy. Lectotypes of *T. chefketi* Forel, 1911 and its junior synonym *T. caespitum* var. *sarkissiani* Forel, 1911, *T. sulcinode* Santschi, 1927, *T. alternans* Santschi, 1929 and its junior synonym *T. biskrensis kahenae* Menozzi, 1934 are designated. Gynes and males of *T. sulcinode*, *T. annectens* and *T. alternans* are described for the first time. An identification key to the workers and gynes of the Palearctic species of the *chefketi* species complex is given. Seventy-one SEM photos and two tables with metric characters are provided for workers and gynes of all discussed species.

Key words: Formicidae, *Tetramorium*, *chefketi* species-complex, revision, new species, morphometry, statistics, key, Palearctic Region