



PRESS RELEASE (2018/07/30)

New species of ‘Troglotrophic (cave-dwelling) Ant’ discovered in Japan

A new troglotrophic (true cave-dwelling) ant species, *Aphaenogaster gamagumayaa* sp. nov. is discovered and described from a limestone cave on the island of Okinawa (Okinawa-jima), Ryukyu Archipelago, Japan. This is the first discovery of a troglotrophic ant in Japan and the second verified record worldwide. This species has only been found in a cave area with heavy guano deposits, and some worker ants were observed carrying guano. The evidence for categorizing this new species as troglotrophic is discussed.

For more information about this research, see “*Aphaenogaster gamagumayaa* sp. nov.: the first troglotrophic ant from Japan (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Myrmicinae),” Takeru Naka & Munetoshi Maruyama, *Zootaxa* (2018), DOI: 10.11646/zootaxa.4450.1.10



Fig. 1. New cave ant species *Aphaenogaster gamagumayaa*

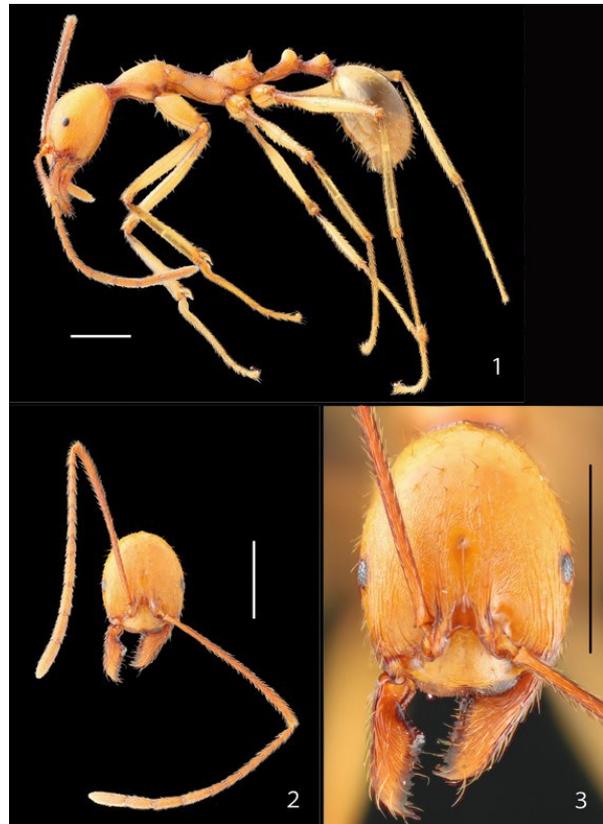


Fig. 2. Ditto, specimens photos



Mr. Naga and Assoc. Prof. Maruyama (right)

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