Occurrence of Nomada xantha Mitai et al., 2007 in Okinawa-Honto Is., Japan, and Supplementary Notes on Variation of Color on Body of the Species

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Occurrence of *Nomada xantha* Mitai *et al*., 2007 in Okinawa-Hontô Is., Japan, and Supplementary Notes on Variation of Color on Body of the Species

Through the courtesy of Mr. H. Makihara and Dr. T. Taki of Forest and Forest Products Research Institute, Tsukuba, we had an opportunity to examine some specimens of Nomadine bees collected in middle to northern part of Okinawa-Hontô Is, the Nansei Islands, Japan. The materials were taken by Malaise traps of Town's type which had been set from June, 2001 to November, 2003. The traps were set up by Mr. H. Makihara, Mr. H. Irei (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Okinawa Pref.), Mr. T. Miyagi (Okinawa Prefectural Forest Research Center) and Mr. O. Asato (Okinawa Prefectural Forest Research Center), and the insects in the traps were harvested by Mr. Irei.

One of the specimens, which was caught in Oku (10. iv. 2003), is a female of *Nomada japonica* Smith, 1873. This species is common in the Japanese mainland and has been already known from Okinawa-Hontô Is.

The other twenty-three specimens are all females of *Nomada xantha* Mitai *et al*., 2007, which has hitherto been known from Amami-Ôshima Is. Only three species of the genus *Nomada*, namely *N. amamiensis* Hirashima, 1960, *N. erythra* Mitai *et al*., 2007, and *N. xantha*, occur in Amami-Ôshima Is., but they were thought to be endemic to the island. Herein we are going to report the specimens of *N. xantha* as the first record from the outside of Amami-Ôshima Is. with the detail data as follows.

Specimens examined: 2♀, Oku, Natural forest, 27. iii. 2003; 1♀, Ginama, Natural forest; 1♀, Uka, Natural regeneration (1991's clear-cut), 10. iv. 2003; 10♀, Nago-dake, Broadleaf tree forest, 2 & 16. vi. 2002 (4♀), 14. iv. 2003 (6♀); 6♀, Nago-dake, *Pinus luchuensis* forest, 2, 16 & 30. vi. 2002 (3♀), 14. vi. 2003 (3♀); 3♀, Nago-dake, Mixed (*P. luchuensis* & broadleaf) forest, 2. iv. 2002 (1♀), 14. iv. 2003 (2♀).

Remarks: In the original description of *Nomada xantha* (Mitai & Tadauchi, 2007), the mesosoma of females (three specimens examined) were described as "Metasoma largely brown to dark brown, T1 [= the first tergum] black on basal half, …; the following portions are dark yellow but maybe bright yellow in fresh specimens: a pair of round spots each on T1-3, large macula on T5 medially". The female specimens examined, however, were taken over fifty years ago, and the color on the metasoma has been faded. The specimens reported herein are relatively fresh, and exhibit some individual variation of color on the first tergum of the metasoma. The first terga of six specimens are wholly pale brown or a pair of indistinct dark yellow spots, which are the same as the examined specimens in the original description. Other seven specimens, however, have a complete yellow band on the first tergum, and other eight specimens have a similar colored band which is narrowly interrupted in the middle on the first tergum. There is little variation on other characters including the other color on body.

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Reference

Mitai, K. & O. Tadauchi, 2007. Taxonomic study of the Japanese species of the *Nomada ruficornis* species group (Hymenoptera, Apidae) with remarks on Japanese fauna of the genus *Nomada*. *Esakia*, (**47**): 25-167.

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