

Identification of ant species in the areas of Kadkan and Jolge Rokh, Torbat Heydarieh

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Received: 23 May, 2017

Accepted: 4 Jan., 2018

ABSTRACT

Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) are social insects with more than 12,000 species, 365 genera and 27 subfamilies. As the most successful living organisms on Earth, have a very positive impact on soil ecosystem. Identification of ant species was performed in Kadkan and Jolge Rokh, Torbat Heydarieh, by sampling from June - September 2016. The samples were first identified in the laboratory using available identification keys and morphological characteristics such as oral fragments, tentacles, seams and body hairs. Then they were sent to Nihat Aktac, Turkey for confirmation of identification. In this study, 12 species belonging to 7 genera in 3 subfamilies were collected and identified. The scientific names of the species and their subfamily and genera are as followed:

Subfamily Myrmicinae: *Messor structor* (Latreille, 1798); *Messor ebeninus* Santschi, 1927; *Messor caducus* (Victor, 1839); *Monomorium kusnezowi* Santschi, 1928; *Crematogaster sordidula* Nylander, 1849; *Crematogaster subdentata* Mayr, 1877

Subfamily Dolichoderinae: *Tapinoma karavaievi* Emery, 1925

Subfamily Formicinae: *Lasius neglectus* Van Loon; Boomsma and Andrasfalvy, 1990; *Formica cunicularia* Latreille, 1798; *Cataglyphis aenescens* (Nylander, 1849); *Cataglyphis nodus* (Brulle, 1833); *Cataglyphis niger* (Andree, 1881).

Keyw ords: Ant, Hymenopteran, Kadkan, Torbat-e Hyderiyeh

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