

New and little known ants (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) in Norway

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Leptothorax gredleri Mayr, 1855 is reported from Norway for the first time. The first colony of *Myrmicina graminicola* (Latreille, 1802), and the second records of *Myrmica karavajevi* (Arnoldi, 1930), and *Lasius meridionalis* (Bondroit, 1820) are reported in addition to some records of rarely collected species.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Formica fennica*, *Leptothorax gredleri*, *Myrmica karavajevi*, *Lasius meridionalis*, Norway.

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Introduction

The knowledge on ants in Norway has steadily increased from the 1880s until now (Kvamme 2010). Due to recent taxonomic advance and increased interest for the group the number of ant species is still expected to increase further. The last update (Kvamme & Olsen 2011) reports 55 species of outdoor living species. With this report the number of ant species in Norway raises to 57.

The current report is a part of a national strategy for increasing knowledge of biodiversity in Norway (<http://www.biodiversity.no/>) where the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) leads a large scale mapping project for insects (INVENT-ART). The main aims of this project were to find new species to Norway and to collect new data on the poorest known species. As many ant species have a very specialized way of living, it was necessary to target potential species and make particular search for each of them in their natural habitats. The project had particular focus on dry and warm habitat types such as sandy areas and southern faced screes which typically have a rich fauna of ants. In order to collect data on particularly rare species in other habitats, additional samples were taken at selected mires of

southeastern Norway. This report summarizes the most interesting records from this effort.

Material and methods

The pinned material was preserved in the insect collections at NINA. The rest of the material was preserved in 80% ethanol and kept in the collections at NTNU Vitenskapsmuseet. All records are available at the interoperable biodiversity database services Species Maps (run by the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre), and at the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). Several specimens of *Leptothorax* Mayr, 1855, and *Coptoformica* Müller, 1923, have been DNA-barcoded (project NOFOR) and can be accessed from the BOLD public database (BOLDSystems 2013). All specimens are identified and collected by the author unless other is mentioned.

Abbreviations and codes: PT = pit fall trap, WT = window flight interception trap, * new to Norway. Red List codes according to the 2010 Norwegian Red List of Species (Kålås *et al.* 2010): NT = near threatened, VU = vulnerable.