

Scientific note

Temnothorax rogeri (Emery, 1869) becoming an established neozoon in Central Europe?

(Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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The genus *Temnothorax* (Mayr, 1861) is one of the most species-rich genera in the Formicidae Latreille, 1809. In Central Europe, the number of species varies from 10 in the Czech Republic to 19 in Switzerland (Czechowski et al. 2012).

The genus includes small ants with the length of a worker's body spanning a range from 2–4 mm. The *Temnothorax* species nests under mosses and stones, in soil, leaf litter, decaying fallen tree branches or in dry branches of living trees. *Temnothorax rogeri* (Emery, 1869) belongs to the former subgenus *Temnothorax sensu stricto*. This species is a member of *Temnothorax recedens* group with another four species: *T. finzii* (Menozzi, 1925), *T. solerii* (Menozzi, 1936), *T. antgoni* (Forel, 1911) and *T. recedens* (Nylander, 1856). They occur in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. *T. rogeri* is poorly known, but it is noted from Croatia, Greece and Montenegro. In Greece, the species belongs to the most common *Temnothorax* species in their distribution area and workers are easy to collect because they are active outside the nest and often occupy large areas (Salata & Borowiec 2015).

A single specimen of *Temnothorax rogeri* (Fig. 1a) was extracted from a litter sample collected in the park Potočná during the survey in 2016 (leg. et coll. M. Klesniaková, det. M. Klesniaková, A. Pavlíková, rev. L. Borowiec). The park is located in the Devínska Nová Ves district (48°12'55"N, 16°58'35"E, 144 m a.s.l.) in the north-western part of Bratislava, Slovakia. The park is surrounded by family houses with private gardens which have a typical rural character. On the basis of our intensive sampling effort, we suppose that the single observed worker is the offspring of a mated queen ant anthropogenically introduced from a tourist area in the Balkans. It remains to be observed during the next ten years if *T. rogeri* may become an established neozoon in this site based on, putatively, a single introduction.

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Reference

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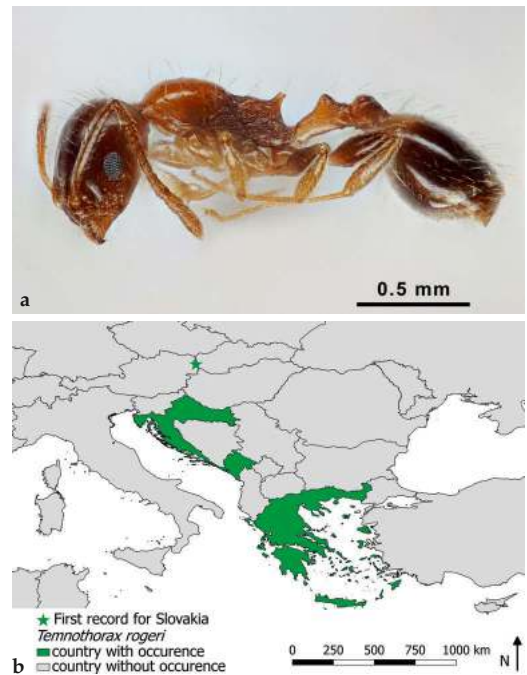


Fig. 1. a. *Temnothorax rogeri* (Emery, 1869) from the park Potočná (Bratislava, Slovakia), lateral view, photo: J. Kodada. b. Known distribution of *Temnothorax rogeri* (Emery, 1869), map preparation: J. Holec.