**Supp. File 1.** Characters and their states examined in the set of Ponerinae species represented in the phylogeny.

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| **Char No.** | **Character states** | **Source** |
|  | **Head** |  |
| 0 | Antennal sockets, in frontal view: (0) extremely expanded, separated by approximately five to six antennal socket diameters; (1) separated by more than two antennal socket diameters, but less so than in state 0; (2) closely approximated, separated by one, or less than one antennal socket diameter. | new |
| 1 | Bulbus neck insertion: (0) lateral, perpendicular; (1) anterodorsal, oblique. | 1 |
| 2 | Bulbus neck shape: (0) tubular; (1) discoidal. | 1 |
| 3 | Cleft on distal section of stipe, in ventral view: (0) well-developed; (1) vestigial. | new |
| 4 | Frontal lobe, in anterolateral view: (0) absent; (1) present. | 1 |
| 5 | Hypostoma, in ventral view: (0) without teeth; (1) with well-developed, subacute teeth; (2) with well-developed, spatulate or square teeth. | new |
| 6 | Labial palp number: (0) 4; (1) 3; (2) 2; (3) 1. | 1 |
| 7 | Malar region, in lateral view: (0) even surface, without carina; (1) with faintly developed carina; (2) with well-developed carina | new |
| 8 | Maxillary palp number: (0) 6; (1) 5; (2) 4; (3)3; (4)2; (5)1. | 1 |
| 9 | Median arch of torulus: (0) lobate, continuous with lateral arch; (1) lobate, discontinuous with lateral arch; (2) hypertrophied. Additive. | 1 |
| 10 | Prementum: (0) without median transverse dome or carina, mostly flat; (1) with median transverse dome. | 1\* |
| 11 | Stipe, outer margin, in ventral view: (0) without lateral expansion; (1) expanded laterad and arched. | 1 |
| 12 | Stipe, in ventral view: (0) without transverse groove; (1) with transverse groove, proximal face not projecting beyond inner margin. | 1 |
|  | **Mesosoma** |  |
| 13 | Metapleural gland opening, dorsal surface, in lateral view: (0) relatively even, without furrows or flanges; (1) with dorsal cuticular flange. | new |
| 14 | Metacoxal cavity, in ventral view: (0) open; (1) closed. | 1 |
| 15 | Metathoracic spiracle, in lateral view: (0) concealed by a spiracular lobe; (1) exposed, opening round to oval. | 1 |
| 16 | Mesonotomesopleural junction, in lateral view: (0) fused, indistinct; (1) with evident suture line. | 1\* |
| 17 | Promesonotal junction, in dorsolateral: (0) fused, indistinct; (1) sutured; (2) articulated. Additive. | 1 |
| 18 | Pronotomesepisternal junction, in lateral view: (0) sutured; (1) articulated. Additive. | 1 |
| 19 | Propodeal spiracle atrial opening, in lateral view: (0) slit shaped; (1) round to oval. | 1 |
|  | **Legs** |  |
| 20 | Anterior metatibial spur: (0) absent; (1) simple; (2) pectinate. | 1 |
| 21 | Arolium on meso- and metapretarsus: (0) absent to vestigial; (1) well-developed. | 1\* |
| 22 | Arolium on propretarsus: (0) absent to vestigial; (1) well-developed. | 1\* |
| 23 | Basal, inner region of probasitarsus: (0) blunt or round; (1) with projection. | 1\* |
| 24 | Calcar, basal portion: (0) completely pectinated; (1) anteriorly pectinated and posteriorly with velum. | 1 |
| 25 | Claws on propretarsus: (0) simple; (1) with preapical tooth; (2) pectinate; (3) with basal tooth. | 1\* |
| 26 | Microtrichia on metatibial spur posterior face: (0) absent; (1) present. | 1 |
| 27 | Protarsus fourth tarsomere: (0) with lateral lobate projections; (1) conical; (2) cylindrical. Additive. | 1 |
| 28 | Stout, spine-like setae on meso- and metatibial apices: (0) absent; (1) present. | new |
| 29 | Stout, spine-like setae on posterior apex of protibia: (0) absent; (1) one; (2) two. | 2 |
|  | **Petiole** |  |
| 30 | Laterotergite on petiole: (0) delineated by sutures; (1) fully fused, indistinct . | 1 |
| 31 | Petiolar sternite: (0) articulated with tergite in part or in its entire length; (1) fused with tergite over its entire length. | 1 |
| 32 | Posterolateral corner of petiolar sternite, in ventral view (0) simple, not forming a lobelike condyle; (1) with a lobelike condyle. | 1\* |
|  | **Gaster** |  |
| 33 | Abdominal segment IV: (0) tubular; (1) vaulted 45°; (2) vaulted 90°. Additive. | 1; 3 |
| 34 | Helcium location: (0) infraaxial; (1) axial. | 4 |
| 35 | Stridulitrum on fourth abdominal pretergite: (0) absent; (1) present. | 5 |

Source: 1: Keller (2011); 2: Lattke (1994); 3: Bolton (2003); 4: Perrault (2004); 5: Markl (1973); \*: modified from Keller (2011).