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A New Subspecies of *Vespa tropica* from Cebu Island, the Philippines (Hymenoptera, Vespidae)

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Abstract A new subspecies of *Vespa tropica* is described from Cebu Island, the Philippines, on the basis of two females.

Representing 14 subspecies, *Vespa tropica* LINNAEUS is widely distributed in the Oriental, Indo-Malayan and Papuan Regions (BEQUAERT, 1936; KOJIMA, 1982; VAN DER VECHT, 1957, 1959). In the monograph of the Indo-Malayan and Papuan *Vespa*, VAN DER VECHT (1957) recorded four subspecies of *V. tropica* from the Philippines. KOJIMA (1982) revised the Philippine fauna of *Vespa* and concluded that *V. tropica philippinensis* SAUSSUER (BEQUAERT, 1936, 1941; VAN DER VECHT, 1957) should be regarded as a good species. Refereing to BEQUAERT (1936, 1941) and VAN DER VECHT (1957), he (KOJIMA, 1982) made notes on the distribution of the subspecies of *V. tropica* in the Philippines, i.e., *V. t. deusta* LEPELETIER is distributed in the northern part of the archipelago (Luzon, Mindoro and Lubang Is.) and it may be replaced by *V. t. anthracina* BEQUAERT in the southern part (Sibuyan, Panay, Cebu, Mindanao, Palawan Is.). On the southernmost islands, Sulu Is., *V. t. leefmansii* VAN DER VECHT is distributed.

The *Vespa* wasps collected on Cebu Island by one of us (S.R.) well agree to *V. tropica* in structure, while their coloration distinctly differs from any subspecies of *V. tropica* so far described. Although our materials are only two females, because of the following two reasons, we describe them as representing a new subspecies of *V. tropica*, which may have been evolved by the geographic isolation. First, although BEQUAERT (1941) noted that *V. t. anthracina* is distributed on Cebu I., neither he (BEQUAERT, 1936, 1941) nor any other workers (KOJIMA, 1982; VAN DER VECHT, 1957, 1959) have seen a specimen of *V. tropica* from Cebu I. Second, above studies showed that the color pattern of *V. tropica* within a local population is more or less stable. It is, therefore, highly improbable that our specimens are color variants of *V. t. anthracina*.

Vespa tropica cebuana subsp. nov.

Head and thorax dark reddish brown; antenna brownish orange, being brighter toward the apex; teeth of mandible, mesoscutum, scutellum, metanotum and ventral

half of mesepisternum darker. Gaster brighter in color than the thorax, reddish brown or ferruginous; gastral segments III–V slightly darker than the first two segments, nearly as dark as propodeum. Body covered with some sparse reddish-brown bristles, and with dense yellowish or golden erect hairs which are prominent on tarsi. Wings yellowish russet, fuscate at basal half of the fore wing, slightly darker along the costa; veins pale brown, slightly darker at the basal portion.

Holotype: ♀, Cebu City, 25 May 1979, S. G. REYES leg. Deposited in the Department of Natural History, Tokyo Metropolitan University.

Paratype: 1 ♀, Talisay (Northern Cebu I.), 2 January 1981, S. G. REYES leg. (Wings more or less uniformly yellowish russet.) Deposited in the UPLB Museum of Natural History, the Philippines.

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