

1 Compositional heterogeneity and outgroup choice 2 influence the internal phylogeny of the ants

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13 Abstract

14 Knowledge of the internal phylogeny and evolutionary history of ants (Formicidae), the world's
15 most species-rich clade of eusocial organisms, has dramatically improved since the advent of
16 molecular phylogenetics. A number of relationships at the subfamily level, however, remain uncer-
17 tain. Key unresolved issues include placement of the root of the ant tree of life and the relationships
18 among the so-called poneroid subfamilies. Here we assemble a new data set to attempt a resolution
19 of these two problems and carry out divergence dating, focusing on the age of the root node of
20 crown Formicidae. For the phylogenetic analyses we included data from 110 ant species, including
21 the key species *Martialis heureka*. We focused taxon sampling on non-formicoid lineages of ants
22 to gain insight about deep nodes in the ant phylogeny. For divergence dating we retained a subset
23 of 62 extant taxa and 42 fossils in order to approximate diversified sampling in the context of the
24 fossilized birth-death process. We sequenced 11 nuclear gene fragments for a total of ~7.5 kb and
25 investigated the DNA sequence data for the presence of among-taxon compositional heterogeneity,
26 a property known to mislead phylogenetic inference, and for its potential to affect the rooting of
27 the ant phylogeny. We found sequences of the Leptanillinae and several outgroup taxa to be rich in
28 adenine and thymine (51% average AT content) compared to the remaining ants (45% average). To
29 investigate whether this heterogeneity could bias phylogenetic inference we performed outgroup
30 removal experiments, analysis of compositionally homogeneous sites, and a simulation study. We

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31 found that compositional heterogeneity indeed appears to affect the placement of the root of the
32 ant tree but has limited impact on more recent nodes. We put forward a novel hypothesis regarding
33 the rooting of the ant phylogeny, in which *Martialis* and the Leptanillinae together constitute a
34 clade that is sister to all other ants. After correcting for compositional heterogeneity this emerges
35 as the best-supported hypothesis of relationships at deep nodes in the ant tree. The results of our
36 divergence dating under the fossilized birth-death process and diversified sampling suggest that the
37 crown Formicidae originated during the Albian or Aptian ages of the Lower Cretaceous (103–124
38 Ma). In addition, we found support for monophyletic poneroids comprising the subfamilies Agroecomyrmecinae, Amblyoponinae, Apomyrminae, Paraponerinae, Ponerinae, and Proceratiinae, and
39 well-supported relationships among these subfamilies except for the placement of Proceratiinae and
40 (Amblyoponinae + Apomyrminae). Our phylogeny also highlights the non-monophyly of several
41 ant genera, including *Protanilla* and *Leptanilla* in the Leptanillinae, *Proceratium* in the Proceratiinae,
42 and *Cryptopone*, *Euponera*, and *Mesoponera* within the Ponerinae.
43

44 **Key words:** Systematic bias, phylogenetics, systematics, diversified sampling, fossilized birth-
45 death process

46 1. Introduction

47 Ants are among the world's dominant social insects, with more species and greater ecological im-
48 pact than any other group of eusocial animals (Hölldobler and Wilson, 1990). Knowledge of ant
49 phylogeny is vital to understanding the processes driving the evolution of these ubiquitous and
50 diverse organisms.

51 About 90% of extant ant diversity, or almost 11,000 species and 9 of 16 subfamilies, belongs to
52 a group dubbed the "formicoid clade" (Brady et al., 2006). The relationships among the subfam-
53 ilies of the formicoid clade are well-resolved. This contrasts with the uncertain branching order
54 of lineages outside of formicoids. Two enduring issues in higher ant phylogeny, highlighted by
55 recent studies (Moreau et al., 2006; Brady et al., 2006; Rabeling et al., 2008) and a review by Ward
56 (2014), include the identity and composition of the lineage that is sister to all other extant ants, and
57 whether the so-called poneroid subfamilies (Agroecomyrmecinae, Amblyoponinae, Apomyrminae,
58 Paraponerinae, Ponerinae, Proceratiinae) form a clade or a grade.

59 In molecular phylogenetic studies published to date, two ant subfamilies, the Martialinae and
60 Leptanillinae (recently redefined to include the genus *Opamyrma*; Ward and Fisher (2016)), have
61 been competing for the designation as the sister group to all other ants (Figure 1) (Rabeling et al.,
62 2008; Kück et al., 2011; Moreau and Bell, 2013; Ward and Fisher, 2016). Rabeling et al. (2008)
63 discovered and described *Martialis heureka*, and inferred that this sole species of the morphologi-
64 cally divergent Martialinae is the sister species to all other ants. Subsequent phylogenies, however,
65 proposed that either the subfamily Leptanillinae is the lineage first branching from the rest of the
66 ants (Kück et al., 2011), or were ambiguous about the placement of the ant root (Moreau and Bell,
67 2013).

68 The monophyly of the poneroid subfamilies was recovered by Moreau et al. (2006) but it was
69 later contested by Brady et al. (2006) and Rabeling et al. (2008). Brady et al. (2006) pointed out that
70 long-branch attraction may be responsible for poneroid monophyly and found that non-monophyly
71 of poneroids could not be rejected based on their data set of seven nuclear gene fragments. Most
72 subsequent phylogenetic studies failed to satisfactorily resolve this issue (reviewed in Ward (2014))

73 although poneroid monophyly was recovered with strong support by Ward and Fisher (2016). A
74 recently published phylogenomic study also supported poneroid monophyly (Branstetter et al.,
75 2017b). The phylogenomic data were apparently insufficient, however, to resolve relationships
76 among poneroid lineages because of low taxon sampling (Branstetter et al., 2017b).

77 In addition to the phylogenetic uncertainty present in the above mentioned studies, there is also
78 potential for systematic bias to preclude correct inference of ant relationships, especially near the
79 root of the ant tree (Ward, 2014). This is because most ants are relatively guanine and cytosine-
80 (GC) rich compared to many aculeate outgroups and species of the Leptanillinae, which are un-
81 usually adenine and thymine- (AT) rich. Such compositional heterogeneity is known to mislead
82 phylogenetic inference (Jermiin et al., 2004) and most of the commonly used models of sequence
83 evolution do not take it into account. This and other potential violations may lead to poor model
84 fit, which was demonstrated in phylogenetics in general (Brown, 2014) and in an ant phylogeny
85 specifically (Rabeling et al., 2008). It is thus possible that the basal position of the Leptanillinae
86 appearing in some studies is an artifact resulting from model misspecification.

87 To address these issues of uncertainty and potential bias near the base of the ant tree of life, we
88 assembled a new comprehensive data set that included all ant subfamilies, with sampling focused on
89 non-formicoid lineages. The amount of sequence data we gathered is significantly greater than in
90 previous studies that included the pivotal species *Martialis heureka*. We investigated the potential
91 of these data to be biased by base-frequency heterogeneity and implemented strategies aimed at
92 minimizing such bias.

93 Another outstanding question concerns the age of the most-recent common ancestor of ants,
94 which has been variously estimated to have lived as recently as ca. 115 Ma (Brady et al., 2006) or as
95 early as 168 Ma (Moreau et al., 2006), with the oldest undisputed crown formicid fossil *Kyromyrma*
96 *neffi* dated at 92 Ma (Grimaldi and Agosti, 2000; Barden, 2017). Efforts to infer the age of origin
97 of crown ants have been conducted thus far using either penalized likelihood (Sanderson, 2002) or
98 node dating in a Bayesian framework (Drummond and Rambaut, 2007). Here we take advantage
99 of the fossilized birth-death process framework (Heath et al., 2014), which was recently extended
100 to accommodate diversified taxon sampling (Zhang et al., 2016).

101 The recently developed fossilized birth-death process (FBD) approach to divergence dating pro-
102 vides several advantages over the node-dating approach, as it explicitly treats both extant and fossil
103 taxa as parts of the same underlying diversification process. This is different from the node-dating
104 approach, where fossils only provide clues about the probability-density distributions of ages for
105 certain splits (Heath et al., 2014). FBD is thus able to avoid some of the challenges documented
106 for node-dating, such as formulation of the statistical problem accidentally precluding reasonable
107 age estimate for a node of interest (Brown and Smith, 2017). Early implementations of the FBD,
108 however, shared the assumption of other Bayesian divergence-time estimation methods that taxon
109 sampling reflects complete or random sampling of the diversification process that created the phy-
110 logeny. Because phylogenies of higher taxa aim for maximizing phylogenetic diversity (Höhna
111 et al., 2011), this assumption is often violated and is known to cause biased age estimates (Beaulieu
112 et al., 2015). The most recent implementation of the FBD accounts for this by explicitly allowing
113 modeling under a diversified sampling scheme (Zhang et al., 2016).

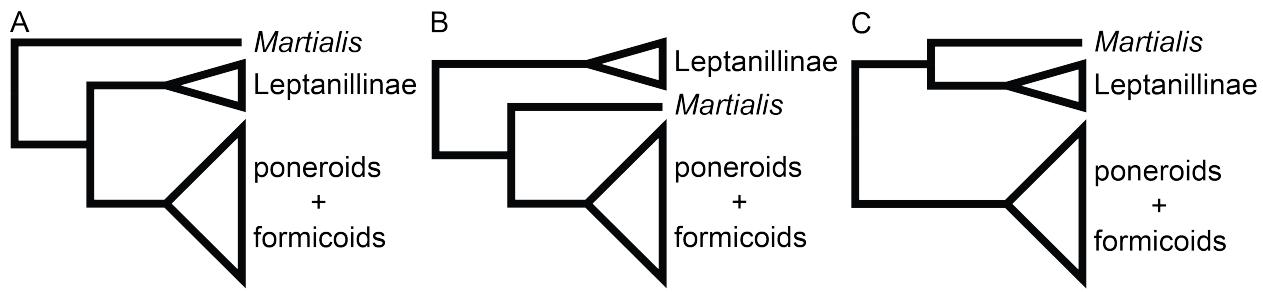


Figure 1: Comparison of alternative hypotheses for the root of the ant phylogeny. A, *Martialis* sister to all other ants (Rabeling et al., 2008); B, Leptanillinae sister to all other ants, including *Martialis* (Kück et al., 2011); C, *Martialis* plus Leptanillinae sister to all other ants (this study).

114 **2. Methods**

115 *2.1. Taxon sampling and data collection*

116 We collected data from 11 nuclear loci for 110 ant species, including *Martialis heureka*, and 13
117 outgroup taxa. Our data set has extensive sampling within Leptanillinae (21 species), all major
118 lineages of the poneroids (66 species), and at least one representative of all formicoid subfamilies
119 (22 species). The sequence data comes from *28S ribosomal DNA (28S)* and ten nuclear protein-
120 coding genes: *abdominal-A (abdA)*, *elongation factor 1-alpha F2 copy (EF1aF2)*, *long wavelength*
121 *rhodopsin (LWRh)*, *arginine kinase (argK)*, *topoisomerase I (TopI)*, *ultrabithorax (Ubx)*, *DNA pol-*
122 *delta (POLD1)*, *NaK ATPase (NaK)*, *antennapedia (Antp)*, and *wingless (Wg)*. Sequences were
123 assembled with Sequencher v5.2.2 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI, U.S.A.), aligned
124 with Clustal X v2.1 (Thompson et al., 1997), and manually edited and concatenated with MacClade
125 v4.08 (Maddison and Maddison, 2005). We excluded introns, autapomorphic indels (9 bp *abdA*, 3
126 bp *EF1aF2*, 9 bp *Ubx*, 3 bp *POLD1*, 3 bp *NaK*, 75 bp *Antp*, 3 bp *Wg*), and hypervariable regions of
127 *28S*. The resulting data matrix is 7,451 bp long and has no missing data except for gaps introduced
128 by non-autapomorphic indels, which constitute 3% of the data. Our protocols for extraction and
129 amplification were described in detail in Ward et al. (2010) and Ward and Fisher (2016). Of the
130 1,353 sequences, 676 were newly generated for this study (GenBank accessions XXXXXXXX-
131 XXXXXX [submission in progress]; Supplementary Table 4).

132 *2.2. Compositional heterogeneity*

133 We assessed compositional heterogeneity using methods implemented in the p4 phylogenetics li-
134 brary (Foster, 2004). To investigate whether our data significantly departed from the assumption of
135 homogeneity across taxa we applied two tests: 1) a χ^2 test for compositional heterogeneity, and 2)
136 a more sensitive, simulation-based test corrected for phylogeny. The phylogeny-corrected tests in-
137 volved inferring a neighbor-joining tree for the data, constructed with BioNJ (Gascuel, 1997), onto
138 which we simulated 1,000 replicates using GTR+4Γ model. The distribution of sequence compo-
139 sitions in the empirical data were then compared against simulated data. Following the finding that
140 the combined data set failed both the χ^2 and phylogenetically-corrected tests, we further divided
141 the data set into partitions as follows: 1) each locus as its own partition, and 2) first, second, and
142 third codon position within each locus assigned to separate partitions. We then ran the two compo-

¹⁴³ sitional heterogeneity tests on each partition separately and recorded the results. We also computed
¹⁴⁴ base frequencies for each taxon and partition using AMAS ([Borowiec, 2016](#)).

¹⁴⁵ **2.3. Data matrices**

¹⁴⁶ In addition to the full data set, we composed two different matrices by excluding the most AT-rich
¹⁴⁷ and the most GC-rich outgroups, respectively. To this end, we first ranked non-ant taxa by AT
¹⁴⁸ content and then removed six taxa that had either the highest or lowest AT content, which also
¹⁴⁹ corresponded to above or below mean AT content for the entire data set. We retained moderately
¹⁵⁰ AT-rich *Pristocera* MG01 as the external outgroup.

¹⁵¹ We also constructed a data set from which we removed all heterogeneous partitions (i.e., 28S,
¹⁵² all third codon positions, and first codon positions of *POLD1* and *Ubx*).

¹⁵³ Selected statistics of the four analyzed data matrices are in the first four rows of Table 1.

Table 1: Data properties.

Data matrix	Length	Percent gaps	Variable sites	Parsimony informative sites
Full data set	7451	3.0	3902	3369
AT-rich outgroups removed	7451	3.0	3806	3237
GC-rich outgroups removed	7451	3.0	3825	3291
Homogeneous partitions	3995	2.7	1181	831
28S	845	6.8	425	317
abdA	621	3.7	311	258
argK	673	0.3	334	296
Antp	865	14.0	497	397
EF1aF2	517	0.0	206	194
LW Rh	458	0.0	287	262
NaK	955	0.0	409	376
POLD1	583	0.0	374	325
Top1	880	0.0	477	426
Ubx	630	0.7	313	280
Wg	424	3.4	269	238
All 1st codon pos.	2200	2.5	829	620
All 2nd codon pos.	2199	2.5	536	349
All 3rd codon pos.	2207	2.5	2112	2083

¹⁵⁴ **2.4. Partitioning**

¹⁵⁵ In the light of recent criticism of the k-means partitioning strategy ([Baca et al., 2017](#)), for each of the
¹⁵⁶ four data sets we used two different strategies for partitioning: a 'greedy' algorithm on predefined
¹⁵⁷ user partitions and the k-means partitioning algorithm ([Frandsen et al., 2015](#)) as implemented in
¹⁵⁸ PartitionFinder 2 pre-release v13 ([Lanfear et al., 2017](#)). The greedy strategy relies on user-defined
¹⁵⁹ sets of characters as input and our predefined sets constituted sites from the three codon positions
¹⁶⁰ in each of the loci used, except for 28S which was defined as a single set. We used a maximum-
¹⁶¹ likelihood tree generated with the fast RAxML algorithm ("‐f E" option) ([Stamatakis, 2014](#)) as

the starting tree for each PartitionFinder run, which then used PhyML for subsequent steps of the algorithm (Guindon et al., 2010). Because of our use of MrBayes in downstream analyses, we restricted models to be evaluated by PartitionFinder to those available in that program.

2.5. Phylogenetics

We constructed phylogenies for all empirical data sets using Bayesian inference with MrBayes v3.2.6 (Ronquist et al., 2012) and maximum-likelihood with IQ-TREE v1.4.2 beta (Nguyen et al., 2014). For the Bayesian analyses, we ran two separate runs, four chains each, for 20 to 80 million generations for each of the eight analyses. We used a 20% burnin fraction and determined mixing and convergence by examining output of MrBayes "sump" command, including average standard deviation of split frequencies (below < 0.01), effective sample size (ESS) for each parameter (minimum 200), and potential scale reduction factor (PSRF) near 1.0. In the maximum-likelihood analyses we specified the same partitioning schemes and substitution models as for the Bayesian inference. We changed the default IQ-TREE settings by using the slow nearest-neighbor interchange search ("‐alnni" option) and setting the number of unsuccessful iterations to stop at 1,000 instead of the default 100 ("‐numstop" option). We assessed support by running 2,000 ultrafast bootstrap replicates (Minh et al., 2013). The authors of this fast bootstrap approximation point out that this algorithm tends to overestimate probability of a correct relationship under 70% support but is more unbiased than RAxML's rapid bootstrapping above that threshold, resulting in 95% support being approximately equal to 95% probability of a relationship being true under the true model. Therefore, support at or above 95% should be interpreted as significant (Minh et al., 2013). We also attempted analyses under tree-heterogeneous models implemented in p4 (Foster, 2004) and nhPhyloBayes (Blanquart and Lartillot, 2008) on the full data matrix, but these turned out to be prohibitively computationally expensive, requiring by our estimate a minimum of five months to reach convergence.

2.6. Simulation

To further assess the sensitivity of the ant phylogeny to bias we simulated a data set with compositional heterogeneity comparable to that present in our data set. In particular, we were interested in investigating whether the position of *Martialis* could be incorrectly inferred as sister to the poneroids plus formicoids clade even if the data were simulated on a topology where *Martialis* is sister to Leptanillinae. To create the simulated data set we first split our empirical alignment, excluding ribosomal 28S, into alignments of first, second, and third codon positions. We then used a fixed topology which had *Martialis* as sister to Leptanillinae, in this case the Bayesian posterior consensus from the full data set analysis under k-means partitioning, to estimate branch lengths for each of the three alignments. To estimate the branch lengths we used IQ-TREE (Nguyen et al., 2015) under the general time-reversible model with rate heterogeneity described by a proportion of invariant sites and a gamma distribution discretized into four bins (GTR+pinv+4 Γ). For each of the codon position alignments we also calculated the proportion of invariant sites and base frequencies for all taxa using AMAS (Borowiec, 2016). Furthermore, we calculated average base frequencies for alignments composed of first and second positions. For the third codon positions alignment we calculated two average base frequencies: one for the 25 most AT-rich taxa, represented almost exclusively by Leptanillinae species and some of the outgroups, and the other for

203 all remaining taxa, thus approximating mean base frequencies for AT-rich and GC-rich taxa, re-
204 spectively. We then used the topologies with branch lengths, proportion of invariant sites, and
205 empirical base frequencies to simulate three separate alignments, each 2,200 sites long, similar to
206 the empirical data, under GTR+pinv+4Γ using p4 ([Foster, 2004](#)). For the alignments imitating first
207 and second codon positions we simulated the data under a tree-homogeneous model, but for the
208 third codon position alignment we used two composition vectors corresponding to the two empiri-
209 cal means of AT-rich (A: 0.24, C: 0.24, G: 0.23, T: 0.29) and GC-rich sequences (A: 0.16, C: 0.33,
210 G: 0.31, T: 0.20) at that position. The AT-rich frequencies were applied to the Leptanillinae and
211 outgroup taxa considered AT-rich in our outgroup taxa removal experiments outlined above. We
212 replicated the simulation 100 times for each alignment under different starting seed numbers. We
213 then performed maximum-likelihood analyses under GTR+pinv+4Γ (using IQ-TREE settings as
214 described above) for the concatenated simulated data as well as each of the three simulated align-
215 ments separately. Following the inference we constructed majority-rule consensus trees using all
216 100 maximum-likelihood trees for all codon position simulations and the concatenated alignments
217 in order to visualize the topology recovered from simulated alignments.

218 *2.7. Divergence time estimation*

219 We performed divergence dating under the fossilized birth-death process ([Heath et al., 2014](#)) and
220 diversified sampling, as implemented in MrBayes v3.2.6 ([Ronquist et al., 2012](#); [Zhang et al., 2016](#)).
221 To obtain a taxon sample that most closely approximates diversified sampling *sensu* [Höhna et al.](#)
222 ([2011](#)), i.e., one extant descendant sampled for each branch that was present at a given time in
223 the past, we pruned our original alignment down to 62 species. To calibrate the analysis we used
224 42 fossil calibrations (See Supplementary Table 3) and a diffuse root node exponential prior with a
225 mean of 250 Ma and offset at 150 Ma (just older than the oldest fossil calibration used). Because we
226 did not include morphological data in our analysis to place the fossils ("total evidence" dating *sensu*
227 [Ronquist et al. \(2012\)](#)), we assigned them to appropriate groups via monophyly constraints ([Heath](#)
228 [et al., 2014](#)). For this analysis we also constrained the topology of outgroup taxa to correspond
229 to the aculeate phylogeny recovered by a recent phylogenomic study ([Branstetter et al., 2017a](#)).
230 We chose the topology from this study over that of [Peters et al. \(2017\)](#) because the latter did not
231 include Rhopalosomatidae and Sierolomorphidae and thus arguably had insufficient taxon sampling
232 to correctly place Vespidae.

233 We ran the analysis with four runs, each with six incrementally heated chains, for 100 million
234 generations and discarded 10% of the samples as burn-in. The analysis was unpartitioned, with
235 the GTR+6Γ substitution model and a relaxed independent clock model with rate drawn from a
236 gamma distribution. We checked for convergence by examining the average standard deviation of
237 split frequencies towards the end of the run (<0.006), potential scale reduction factor values for
238 each parameter (maximum 1.028, average 1.001), and effective sample sizes (>500 for combined
239 runs). We examined MCMC trace files with Tracer v1.5 to confirm that the two runs converged on
240 all parameters and to compare posterior distributions to the analysis without data (i.e., under the
241 prior).

242 2.8. Data availability

243 All data matrices, configurations for and output from PartitionFinder, Bayesian, and maximum-
 244 likelihood analyses, as well as custom scripts used are available the Zenodo data repository, DOI:
 245 [10.5281/zenodo.838799](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.838799).



Figure 2: Preferred phylogenetic hypothesis for the ingroup (Formicidae), with AT content indicated for each terminal taxon. Tree topology with branch lengths from the Bayesian analysis of the full data matrix under k-means partitioning strategy. See Supplementary Figure 2 for support values on all nodes. Warmer branch colors signify higher AT content. Scale in expected substitutions per site.

246 3. Results

247 We first summarize results regarding compositional heterogeneity, followed by a discussion of the
248 placement of the formicid root as it was impacted by the different methods. Second, we present phy-
249 logenetic findings which were less sensitive to different analytical treatments, including poneroid
250 monophyly, the relationships within poneroids, and non-monophyly of some of the non-formicoid
251 genera.

252 3.1. Compositional heterogeneity

253 Within the ingroup, ants in the Leptanillinae stands out as particularly AT-rich at 50.9% on average
254 compared to a mean of 46.2% for all taxa (or 44.9% for non-leptanilline ants). At 46.6%, *Martialis*
255 is close to the mean (Figure 2, Supplementary Table 1).

256 We found considerable compositional heterogeneity among taxa in our data set, mostly confined
257 to third codon positions. Overall difference in AT content among taxa was 12.6% across the entire
258 data set. This difference was equal to 37.3% at third codon positions, compared to only 3.5% at
259 first codon positions and 1.1% at the second codon positions. Third codon positions also accounted
260 for 56.7% variable sites and 61.8% parsimony informative sites of the data set.

261 Consistent with this pattern, the phylogeny-corrected test identified all third codon partitions
262 as those for which the homogeneity assumption could be rejected with a $p < 0.05$ (Supplementary
263 Table 2). In addition to the third codon positions, 28S, and first codon positions of *POLD1* and
264 *Ubx* were found to violate the homogeneity assumption using this test. Similar to the phylogeny-
265 corrected test, the χ^2 test identified all of the third codon positions as heterogeneous but it did not
266 reject the homogeneity assumption for 28S and first codon positions of *POLD1* and *Ubx* (Supple-
267 mentary Table 2).

268 Compositional heterogeneity was also high among the outgroups. Those that fell above the
269 mean AT content for the entire alignment included (in order of decreasing AT content) *Mischocyt-*
270 *tarus flavidorsalis*, *Metapolybia cingulata*, *Brachycistis* sp., *Apis mellifera*, *Dasymutilla aureola*, *Scot-*
271 *lia verticalis*, and *Pristocera MG01*. The outgroup species that were more GC-rich than average
272 were (in order of decreasing AT content) *Chyphotes mellipes*, *Ampulex compressa*, *Apterogyna*
273 *ZA01*, *Aporus niger*, *Chalybion californicum*, and *Sapyga pumila* (Supplementary Table 1).

274 3.2. Analyses of the full data matrix

275 With all taxa retained and no attempt at reducing the compositional heterogeneity of the data, the
276 partitioning strategy has a strong effect on the results. Under the k-means strategy *Martialis heureka*
277 is sister to the Leptanillinae with strong support of $pp = 0.99$ in the Bayesian analysis (Figure
278 2; Supplementary Figure 2) and low support of 87% bootstrap in the maximum-likelihood tree
279 (Supplementary Figure 4). Under the greedy analyses, both Bayesian and maximum-likelihood
280 trees recover a topology where the Leptanillinae are sister to the remaining Formicidae including
281 *Martialis*, although support for this topology is below significance ($pp = 0.81$ and bootstrap 93%;
282 Supplementary Figures 1 and 3).

283 3.3. Effects of outgroup removal

284 Relative to the full data matrix with all 13 outgroup species, removal of the AT-rich outgroups
285 (*Apis mellifera*, *Brachycistis* sp., *Dasymutilla aureola*, *Scolia verticalis*, *Metapolybia cingulata*,
286 and *Mischocyttarus flavitarsis*) shifts support towards a tree where *Martialis* and the Leptanillinae
287 together form a clade that is sister to all other ants. In consensus Bayesian trees, the support for
288 this clade is at $pp = 0.91$ under greedy (Supplementary Figure 5) and $pp = 1.0$ under the k-means
289 partitioning strategy (Supplementary Figure 6). Under maximum-likelihood, the effect is less ob-
290 vious, as the ML tree under greedy partitioning has *Martialis* sister to formicoids and poneroids
291 but now with only 50% bootstrap support (Supplementary Figure 7). In the k-means maximum-
292 likelihood tree, *Martialis* and Leptanillinae form a clade supported in 99% bootstrap replicates
293 (Supplementary Figure 8).

294 Removal of GC-rich outgroups (*Ampulex compressa*, *Aporus niger*, *Apterogyna ZA01*, *Chaly-
295 bion californicum*, and *Chyphotes mellipes*) reinforces support for the topology where Leptanillinae
296 are sister to *Martialis* plus formicoids plus poneroids with $pp = 1.0$ under greedy partitioning (Sup-
297 plementary Figure 9) and $pp = 0.98$ under k-means in Bayesian analyses (Supplementary Figure
298 10). The same pattern is present in maximum-likelihood trees, which both show Leptanillinae sis-
299 ter to *Martialis* plus formicoids and poneroids. Under greedy analyses bootstrap support for this
300 clade is 99% (Supplementary Figure 11) and under k-means it is 96% (Supplementary Figure 12).

301 3.4. Compositionally homogeneous matrix

302 The analyses of homogeneous data partitions result in a tree where *Martialis* is sister to the Leptanillinae with strong support regardless of partitioning scheme and inference method (Table 2).
303 Bayesian trees under both greedy and k-means partitioning strategies show $pp = 1.00$ (Supple-
304 mentary Figures 13 and 14). Under maximum-likelihood this node is supported in 100% bootstrap
305 replicates under both greedy k-means partitioning strategies (Supplementary Figures 15 and 16).

307 3.5. Simulation

308 In the maximum-likelihood analyses of simulated alignments imitating first codon positions the
309 *Martialis* plus Leptanillinae clade, i.e., the topology under which the data were simulated, is recov-
310 ered consistently (Supplementary Figure 17). For the alignments imitating second codon positions
311 *Martialis* emerges as sister to the Leptanillinae in 96 out of 100 trees Supplementary Figure 18),
312 and in the tree derived from the matrix imitating third codon positions *Martialis* is sister to the
313 Leptanillinae in only 64 trees out of 100 (Supplementary Figure 19). The remaining 36 trees show
314 *Martialis* either as sister to the poneroid plus formicoid clade, with Leptanillinae being sister to
315 all other ants, or, alternatively as the sister group to all ants. The combined data set supports the
316 *Martialis* plus Leptanillinae clade in 99 out of 100 trees (Supplementary Figure 20).

317 3.6. Relationships among poneroid subfamilies

318 The so-called poneroid ant subfamilies that include Agroecomyrmecinae, Amblyoponinae, Apomyr-
319 minae, Paraponerinae, Ponerinae, and Proceratiinae form a well supported clade. This result ap-
320 pears more robust to different analytics than the placement of the root of the tree. Support for this
321 clade is often maximum in Bayesian analyses and generally above 90% bootstrap proportion in the

322 maximum-likelihood analyses, except for the data set with GC-rich outgroups removed, where the
323 support is only 75% (Table 2).

324 Within the poneroid clade, another set of relationships that is well-supported across the anal-
325 yses is the sister relationship of Agroecomyrmecinae and Paraponerinae, which is significantly
326 supported in all analyses except in the maximum-likelihood trees inferred from the homogeneous
327 data matrix. This clade is in turn sister to the Ponerinae in all analyses, although support varies.
328 This relationship receives maximum support in all Bayesian analyses except for the data matrix
329 with GC-rich outgroups removed. In maximum-likelihood trees support varies between 74% and
330 97% bootstrap replicates (Table 2).

331 The most problematic is placement of Proceratiinae and (Amblyoponinae + Apomyrminae),
332 which in some analyses form a clade, and in others form a grade where Amblyoponinae plus
333 Apomyrminae are the sister clade to all other poneroids and Proceratiinae is sister to the remaining
334 subfamilies. The support for both of these alternatives is never significant, however (Table 2).

335 3.7. Non-monophyly of currently recognized genera

336 Several shallow nodes, well-supported regardless of the data set and analysis method, highlight
337 non-monophyly of genera outside of the formicoid clade (Figure 2; Supplementary Figures 1–16).

338 In the Leptanillinae, the morphologically derived genus *Anomalomyrma* is nested within *Protanilla*,
339 and two genera known only from males, *Phaulomyrma* and *Yavnella*, are nested within *Leptanilla*.

340 Within the small subfamily Proceratiinae, the four species of *Proceratium* included in our data
341 matrices were paraphyletic with respect to *Probolomyrmex*.

342 Under all analyses we recover three non-monophyletic genera within Ponerinae: *Cryptopone*
343 *gilva* and *Cryptopone hartwigi* included here are only very distantly related, the genus *Euponera*
344 is paraphyletic with respect to the *Cryptopone hartwigi* plus *Fisheropone* clade, and *Mesoponera*
345 is polyphyletic, here represented by *M. melanaria*, which is sister to *Leptogenys*, and *M. ambigua*,
346 here sister to *Strebognathus peetersi*.

347 3.8. Divergence time analyses

348 Our divergence time analysis recovers a relatively young age for the most common ancestor of
349 crown-group ants, estimated to have lived during the Albian or Aptian ages of the Lower Cretaceous
350 (Figure 3, Table 3; median age 112 Ma, 95% highest posterior density interval 103–123 Ma). The
351 crown formicoids are estimated to have arisen ~101 Ma, closely followed by the split of *Martialis*
352 from the Leptanillinae around 99 Ma, and the origin of poneroids at 92 Ma. The median ages
353 inferred for the subfamilies where our taxon sampling spanned the root node are as follows: 45 for
354 Agroecomyrmecinae, 75 Ma for Amblyoponinae plus Apomyrminae, 55 Ma for Dolichoderinae,
355 60 Ma for Formicinae, 66 Ma for Leptanillinae, 45 Ma for Myrmeciinae, 61 Ma for Myrmicinae,
356 73 Ma for Ponerinae, and 65 Ma for Proceratiinae.

357 4. Discussion

358 4.1. Compositional heterogeneity and the rooting of the ant tree

359 Earlier studies recognized the difficulty in rooting the ant tree of life (Brady et al., 2006; Rabeling
360 et al., 2008) and our analyses confirm the supposition (Ward, 2014) that the effects of composi-

Table 2: Support for selected relationships in Bayesian consensus and maximum-likelihood (ML) trees. Support for Bayesian analyses is expressed in posterior probabilities rounded to two decimal places and for ML in percentage of bootstrap replicates. Ag: Agromyrmecinae, Am: Amblyoponinae plus Apomyrmicinae, for: formicoids, Le: Leptanillinae, Ma: Martalinae, Pa: Paraponerinae, Po: Ponerinae, pon: poneroids, Pr: Proceratiinae. NA signifies a case where the relationship was not recovered in the consensus or maximum-likelihood tree.

Matrix	Method	Partitioning	Ma + Le	Ma + (for + pon)	pon monophyl.	Ag + Pa	Po + (Ag + Pa)	Pr + Am	Pr + (AgPaPo)	Am + (AgPaPo)
Full	ML	greedy	NA	93	100	100	97	NA	77	NA
Full	ML	k-means	87	NA	92	98	88	71	NA	NA
Full	Bayes	greedy	NA	0.81	1.00	1.00	1.00	NA	0.54	NA
Full	Bayes	k-means	0.99	NA	1.00	1.00	1.00	NA	0.59	NA
AT-rich outrgr. removed	ML	greedy	NA	50	99	100	92	NA	70	NA
AT-rich outrgr. removed	ML	k-means	99	NA	97	99	83	64	NA	NA
AT-rich outrgr. removed	Bayes	greedy	0.91	NA	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.5	NA	NA
AT-rich outrgr. removed	Bayes	k-means	1.00	NA	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.64	NA	NA
GC-rich outrgr. removed	ML	greedy	NA	99	99	100	95	NA	86	NA
GC-rich outrgr. removed	ML	k-means	NA	96	75	96	73	NA	45	NA
GC-rich outrgr. removed	Bayes	greedy	NA	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	NA	0.87	NA
GC-rich outrgr. removed	Bayes	k-means	NA	0.98	0.88	0.99	0.88	NA	0.54	NA
Homogeneous	ML	greedy	100	NA	98	81	99	NA	NA	79
Homogeneous	ML	k-means	100	NA	98	78	100	NA	NA	72
Homogeneous	Bayes	greedy	1.00	NA	1.00	0.99	1.00	NA	NA	0.67
Homogeneous	Bayes	k-means	1.00	NA	1.00	0.93	1.00	0.50	0.50	NA

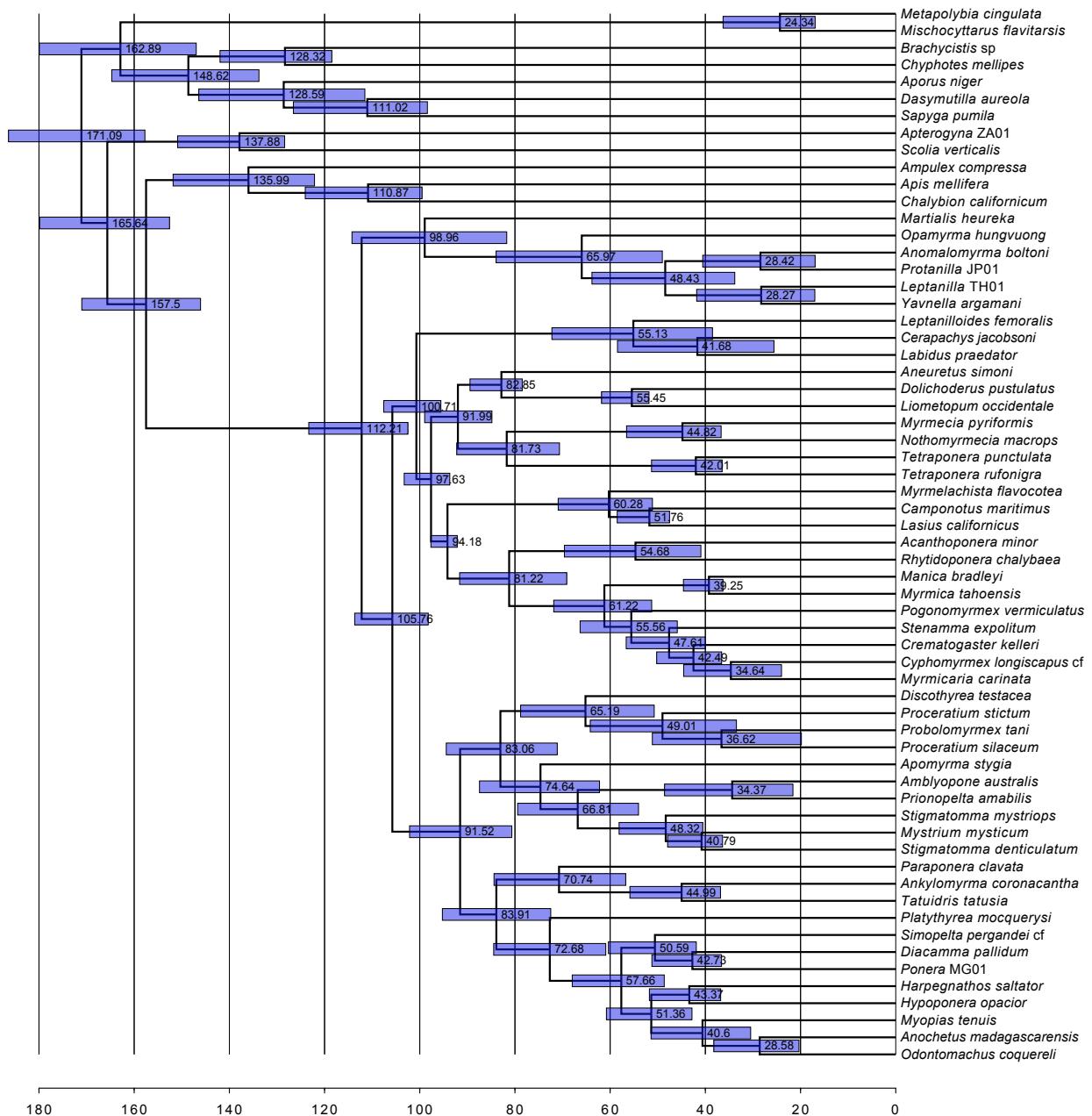


Figure 3: Chronogram from the divergence dating analysis under the fossilized birth-death process with diversified sampling, in MrBayes. Scale is in Ma. Bars depict the 95% highest posterior probability density of each estimate.

361 tional heterogeneity play a role. The outgroup removal experiments, exclusion of compositionally
 362 heterogeneous sites, and simulations all suggest that with greater compositional heterogeneity in
 363 the data the abnormally AT-rich Leptanillinae species are drawn more strongly to the base of the ant
 364 tree. As a result of this, the more GC-rich *Martialis* can erroneously cluster with the clade of formi-
 365 coids and poneroids, as in Kück et al. (2011). When compositional heterogeneity is accounted for,
 366 as in the homogeneous data matrix, the Leptanillinae and *Martialis* emerge as sister taxa forming
 367 a strongly supported clade that is sister to all other ants.

Table 3: Comparison of divergence time estimates. Numbers for this study refer to median node age (95% highest posterior density) in Ma. Numbers from other studies are ranges of means/medians from across all analyses presented.

Crown taxon	This study	Brady et al. 2006	Moreau et al. 2006	Moreau and Bell 2013	Schmidt 2013
Formicidae	112 (103–123)	111–137	141–169	139–158	116–141
Leptanillinae (excl. <i>Opamyrma</i>)	48 (34–64)	68–89	102–123	72–104	NA
Amblyoponinae + Apomyrminae	75 (62–87)	92–118	113–143	NA	85–100
Proceratiinae	65 (51–79)	78–98	111–132	NA	74–88
Ponerinae	73 (61–84)	79–103	111–132	56–60	85–102
Dolichoderinae	55 (52–62)	71–76	86–97	53–66	NA
Myrmeciinae	45 (37–57)	46–52	NA	NA	NA
Formicinae	60 (51–71)	77–82	92–104	75–90	65–70
Myrmicinae	61 (51–72)	82–89	100–114	78–90	73–76
Dorylinae	>= 55 (39–72)	76–87	99–117	78–95	78–88

The selective outgroup removal experiment shows a trend in which support for the AT-rich Leptanillinae as sister to all other ants including *Martialis* is the strongest when only AT-rich outgroups are retained, moderate or weak when all outgroups (those that are AT- and GC-rich) are retained, and the weakest when all the AT-rich outgroups are removed. This suggests that the AT content of outgroup taxa indeed causes attraction of the above-average AT-rich Leptanillinae to the base of the ant tree. This finding has interesting implications for outgroup choice in phylogenetics in general, as it suggests that choice of outgroups should be made not only on the basis of their close relationship to the ingroup taxa, but also taking into account sequence divergence and other properties relative to the ingroup (Takezaki and Nishihara, 2016)

Finally, our simulations show that compositional heterogeneity similar to that in our empirical data matrix has the potential to cause bias resulting in the incorrect placement of Leptanillinae as sister to *Martialis* plus poneroids plus formicoids. The matrix designed to imitate third codon positions was simulated on a tree where *Martialis* was sister to Leptanillinae, but the maximum-likelihood trees inferred from this alignment often recover *Martialis* sister to all other ants or sister to the poneroids plus formicoids, both topologies recovered in previous studies (Rabeling et al., 2008; Kück et al., 2011). The tree topology used for the simulation is correctly recovered from the alignments imitating first and second codon positions in most cases. These alignments were simulated with base frequencies drawn from our empirical alignment and under a tree-homogeneous model. On a combined simulated data set the negative effect of sites emulating third codon positions is overwhelmed by the homogeneous data and the inferred tree is consistent with the topology on which the data were simulated in 99 out of 100 maximum-likelihood trees obtained from the simulated concatenated data. These effects appear not to be as strong as seen in our empirical data, but the simulation is a simplistic scenario that is likely to involve fewer confounding factors. In particular, 1) the same substitution model that generated the data could be used for inference (minus compositional heterogeneity), 2) the simulations attempted to capture only one dimension of the process heterogeneity, and 3) in our empirical data matrix compositionally heterogeneous sites were actually over-represented compared to the simulated matrix because of the heterogeneous 28S partition, which was not taken into account when simulating the matrix imitating the non-homogenous third codon positions. The results from simulations imitating compositionally heterogeneous third codon position data demonstrate that compositional heterogeneity, at least in principle, has the potential to impact the position of *Martialis*.

399 If our interpretation of these results is correct, the species-poor clade of blind and subterranean
400 Martialinae and Leptanillinae is the sister group to the remaining 99.5% species of the Formicidae.
401 As pointed out before (Brady et al., 2006; Rabeling et al., 2008; Pie and Feitosa, 2015), this does not
402 necessarily mean that the most-recent common ancestor of the ants was blind and lived underground
403 (Lucky et al., 2013). Rather, this fact may reflect lower relative extinction rates experienced by
404 these ants, perhaps due to the long-term stability of their subterranean environments, or different
405 relative probabilities of evolutionary transitions between subterranean and epigaeic habits.

406 4.2. Relationships of poneroid subfamilies

407 In addition to further insight into the placement of the root of the ant phylogeny, we find evidence
408 for poneroid monophyly. The question of poneroid monophyly vs. paraphyly was the second
409 outstanding issue in higher ant phylogeny highlighted in a recent review (Ward, 2014). All our em-
410 pirical analyses suggest poneroid monophyly, and in most instances this clade receives significant
411 support, with the notable exception of analyses of the data matrix from which GC-rich outgroups
412 were removed, i.e., where the phylogeny was potentially more susceptible to bias. Poneroid mono-
413 phyly was first recovered in Moreau et al. (2006) but this result was questioned as doubtful by Brady
414 et al. (2006), who emphasized contradictory results from their Bayesian and maximum-likelihood
415 analyses of which the former supported monophyletic poneroids but the latter did not. Brady et al.
416 (2006) also conducted ingroup-only analyses which supported topologies where no possible root-
417 ing could result in poneroid monophyly. Although we did not perform ingroup-only analyses here,
418 taking into account more comprehensive taxon sampling, the higher amount of sequence data, and
419 insensitivity of poneroid monophyly to the different data treatments, we interpret the support for
420 the poneroid clade as strong. Poneroid monophyly has also been recovered in other phylogenetic
421 studies of ants, including Moreau et al. (2006), some analyses of Brady et al. (2006), Ward and
422 Fisher (2016), and a phylogenomic study (Branstetter et al., 2017b).

423 Similarly strongly-supported results involve the relationships among the poneroid clade sub-
424 families Agroecomyrmecinae, Paraponerinae, and Ponerinae. Although very disparate morpho-
425 logically, Agroecomyrmecinae emerge as sister to Paraponerinae with significant support in all
426 analyses, and this clade is in turn sister to the Ponerinae.

427 Our data are inconclusive on the relative position of Proceratiinae and (Amblyoponinae plus
428 Apomyrminae), which sometimes emerge as a clade and at other times as a grade relative to the
429 clade composed of Agroecomyrmecinae, Paraponerinae, and Ponerinae. If other results presented
430 here are confirmed, the placement of (Amblyoponinae plus Apomyrminae) and Proceratiinae within
431 the poneroid group would remain the last unsolved subfamily-level relationship in ants.

432 4.3. Non-monophyly of currently recognized genera

433 Our analyses recover several of the currently recognized ant genera as para- or polyphyletic. Al-
434 though we do not favor inclusion of non-monophyletic groups in a classification, here we are only
435 highlighting existing problems without proposing any formal taxonomic changes. We feel that
436 proposing satisfactory resolutions requires additional research, as explained for each case below.

437 Among the Leptanillinae, we find the morphologically derived genus *Anomalomyrma* nested
438 within samples identified by us as *Protanilla*. A more comprehensive evaluation of *Protanilla*-like
439 leptanillines, including both males and workers, should be carried out for a better understanding

440 of diversity within the group. We find two other leptanilline genera, *Phaulomyrma* and *Yavnella*,
441 nested within *Leptanilla*. Both these genera were described based on males not associated with
442 workers (Wheeler and Wheeler, 1930; Kugler, 1987). Because the characters defining and differ-
443 entiating leptanilline lineages based on males are not well understood (Ogata et al., 1995) and all of
444 our *Leptanilla* specimens were males, we feel it would be premature to propose taxonomic changes.
445 A critical reappraisal of leptanilline taxonomy using both morphology and molecular phylogenetics
446 is clearly needed.

447 Our analyses find the proceratiine genus *Probolomyrmex* nested within the larger genus *Procer-
448 atium*. Several species currently in *Proceratium* were classified in the erstwhile genus *Sysphingta*.
449 The differentiation between the two taxa was mostly based on the structure of the clypeus and
450 shape of the petiole. Based on these characters, two of the *Proceratium* species included in our
451 phylogeny, *P. avium* and *P. stictum*, would fit the old concept of *Sysphingta*, while the two other,
452 *Proceratium silaceum* and *Proceratium* SC02, match *Proceratium* sensu stricto (*P. silaceum* is the
453 type species of the genus). Previous authors (Brown, 1958; Urbani and Andrade, 2003), however,
454 showed that considerable variation exists with regard to the characters originally used to distinguish
455 *Proceratium* from *Sysphingta*. *Proceratium* taxonomy would thus benefit from a focused study and
456 a re-evaluation of morphology under a modern phylogenetic framework.

457 Despite recent comprehensive taxonomic and phylogenetic work focusing on the Ponerinae
458 (Schmidt, 2013; Schmidt and Shattuck, 2014), our analyses reveal three non-monophyletic genera
459 within the subfamily.

460 *Cryptopone* is a case of a polyphyletic genus. The two species included here, *C. gilva* and *C.
461 hartwigi*, are only very distantly related. The former is a part of the *Ponera* genus-group and the
462 latter sister to *Fisheropone* and a part of the *Odontomachus* genus-group, as defined by Schmidt
463 (2013). As noted by Schmidt and Shattuck (2014), the resolution of *Cryptopone* taxonomy would
464 require a more thorough revision and sampling of all species attributed to this genus. Notably, our
465 phylogeny did not include any species placed in the erstwhile genus *Wadeura*, which may well turn
466 out to be yet another lineage unrelated to the type species *C. testacea*.

467 *Euponera*, which was recognized to form two morphologically distinct species groups by Schmidt
468 and Shattuck (2014), is represented by *E. brunoi* and *E. sikorae* in our data set. In our phylogeny,
469 *E. brunoi* is more closely related to "Cryptopone" *hartwigi* and *Fisheropone* than *E. sikorae*. To-
470 gether, the paraphyletic *Euponera*, the species "Cryptopone" *hartwigi*, and *Fisheropone ambigua*
471 form a well-supported group with well-resolved internal relationships. *Euponera* is divisible into
472 two groups based on morphology but there are several species that cannot be placed with certainty
473 even within the genus as presently defined (Schmidt and Shattuck, 2014). Assignment of *Euponera*
474 species into two different genera should thus be postponed until more evidence is available.

475 *Mesoponera*, also found to be polyphyletic in our analyses, presents a particularly taxonomi-
476 cally challenging genus that would require a more comprehensive reexamination of morphology
477 and inclusion of more species in a phylogeny for satisfactory resolution. See Schmidt and Shattuck
478 (2014) for a more thorough discussion.

479 4.4. The age of extant ants

480 Our divergence-time analysis indicates that the most recent common ancestor of living ants origi-
481 nated during the Lower Cretaceous (103–124 Ma; median 113 Ma), an age estimate considerably
482 younger than those obtained by some other recent studies. Moreau et al. (2006) concluded that ants

483 most likely arose 140–169 Ma while Moreau and Bell (2013) arrived at an estimate of 139–158
484 Ma. In contrast, Brady et al. (2006) proposed a younger age for the crown ants, 116–133 Ma.

485 Our study parallels the pattern for age estimates of the order Hymenoptera, which has often
486 been inferred to be much older than the oldest hymenopteran fossils (Ronquist et al., 2012; Peters
487 et al., 2017), but under fossilized birth-death process with diversified sampling its estimated age
488 fell to within 20 Ma from the oldest known fossils (Zhang et al., 2016). In our study, the median
489 age for the crown Formicidae, at 113 Ma, is also about 20 Ma older than the oldest undisputed
490 crown-group fossils (Grimaldi and Agosti, 2000; Barden, 2017).

491 The ages we recovered for ant subfamilies where either few old crown-group fossils are known
492 or only a few taxa were sampled are almost certainly underestimated (e.g. Dolichoderinae at 55 Ma,
493 cf. Ward et al. (2010); Formicinae at 60 Ma, cf. Blaimer et al. (2015)). Future studies including
494 more genus-level sampling of extant and extinct taxa are likely to modify these estimates in the
495 direction of older dates.

496 5. Concluding remarks

497 Although more sequence data have often been shown to help resolve difficult phylogenetic ques-
498 tions, our study of ant phylogeny shows that systematic bias not accounted for by the commonly
499 used tree-homogeneous models may adversely affect phylogenetic inference. Simply increasing
500 the amount of data can in fact be detrimental if added sequences have properties that violate model
501 assumptions (Huelsenbeck and Hillis, 1993), such as the substantial among-taxon compositional
502 heterogeneity present in third codon positions and ribosomal 28S in our data set. The ideal solution
503 to this problem would be use of substitution models that take into account process heterogeneity
504 across the tree. Such models have been proposed (Foster, 2004; Blanquart and Lartillot, 2008;
505 Jayaswal et al., 2014), but unfortunately their current implementations do not scale well for larger
506 data sets, even for the modest amount of data present in our alignment. Alternatively, one can as-
507 sess model adequacy through simulation-based tests of compositional heterogeneity (Foster, 2004),
508 as in the current study.

509 The phylogenetic hypothesis presented here for deep nodes of the ant tree of life will soon be
510 tested with genomic-scale data. Recent advances in sequencing and analysis has already produced
511 data matrices with hundreds or even thousands of loci (Faircloth et al., 2014; Blaimer et al., 2015;
512 Branstetter et al., 2017b). As the amount of available sequence data increases, it is important that
513 the potential for model violation is carefully evaluated, as large data sets will likely be less prone
514 to uncertainty but instead may give strongly-supported results that are wrong instead (Philippe and
515 Roure, 2011). Tests of compositional heterogeneity, posterior predictive approaches to assessing
516 model fit (Bollback, 2002; Brown and ElDabaje, 2008; Doyle et al., 2015), or sensitivity of results
517 to removal of sites likely to introduce bias (Goremykin et al., 2015) should become a part of the
518 standard phylogenomics toolkit.

519 Our understanding of the timeline of ant evolution will also likely benefit from more biologi-
520 cally realistic models resulting from recent developments in divergence-dating, such as placement
521 of fossils using explicit information about morphology (Ronquist et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2016),
522 and from inclusion of more sequence data as well as more comprehensive taxon sampling.

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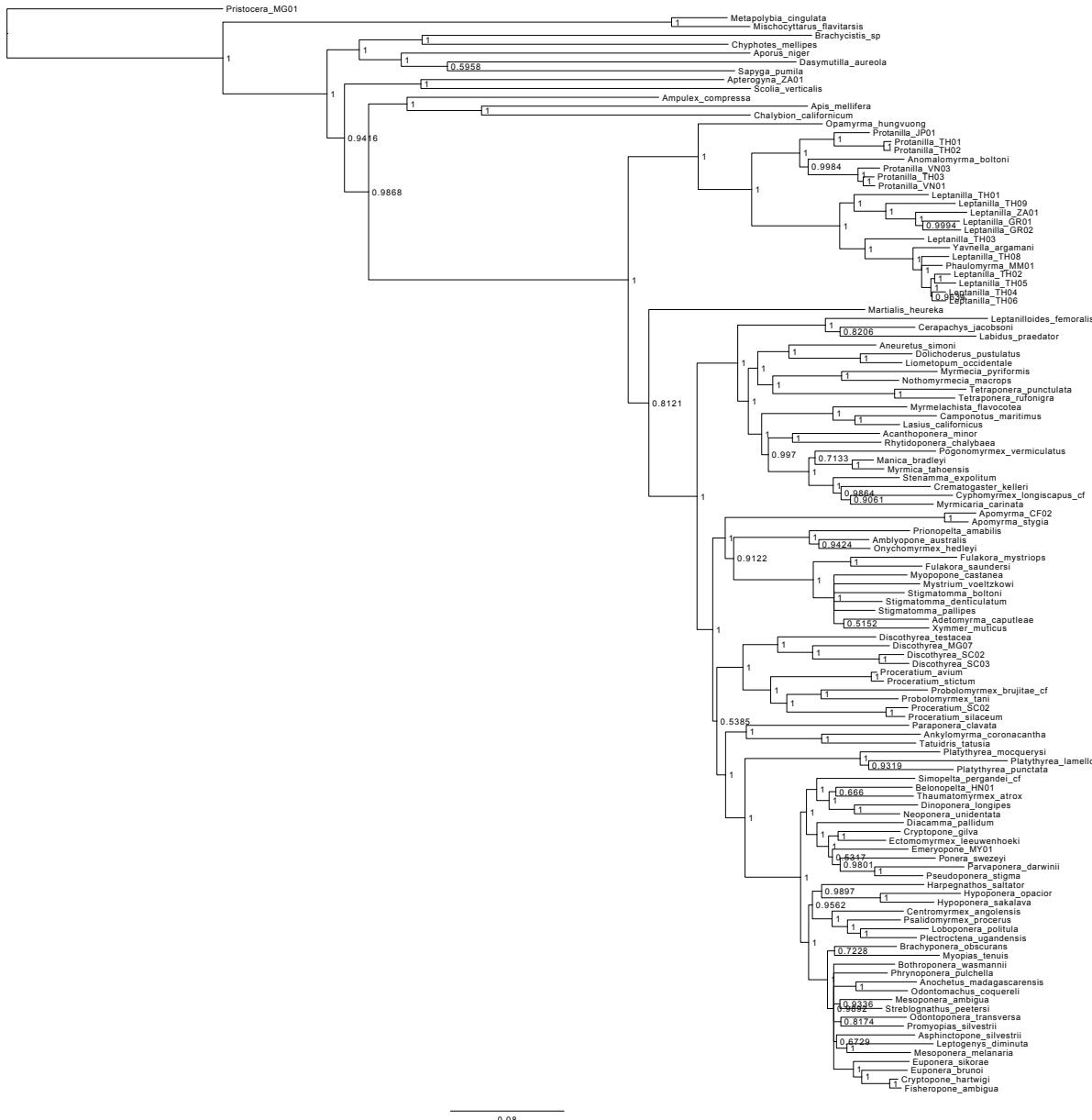
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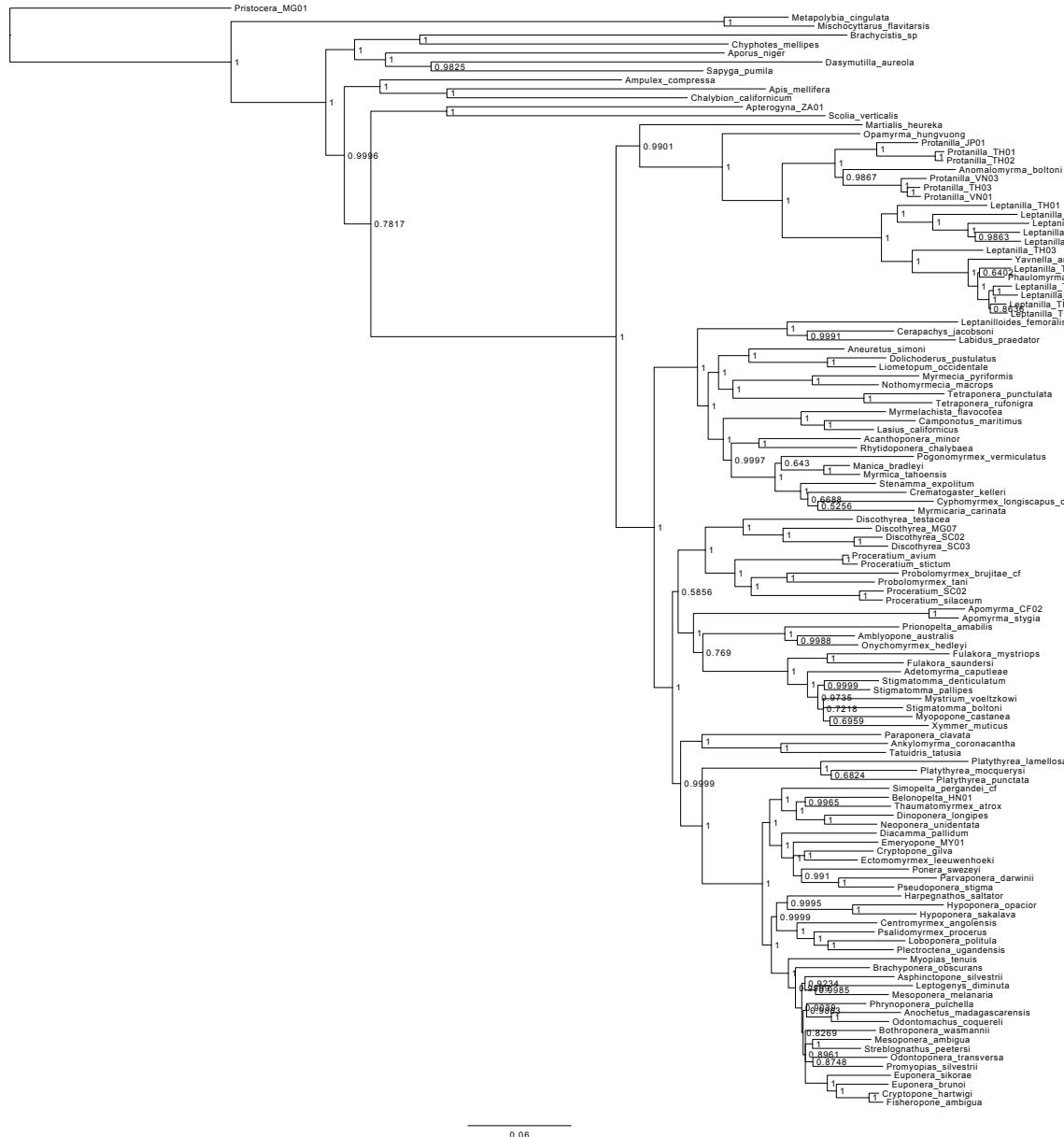
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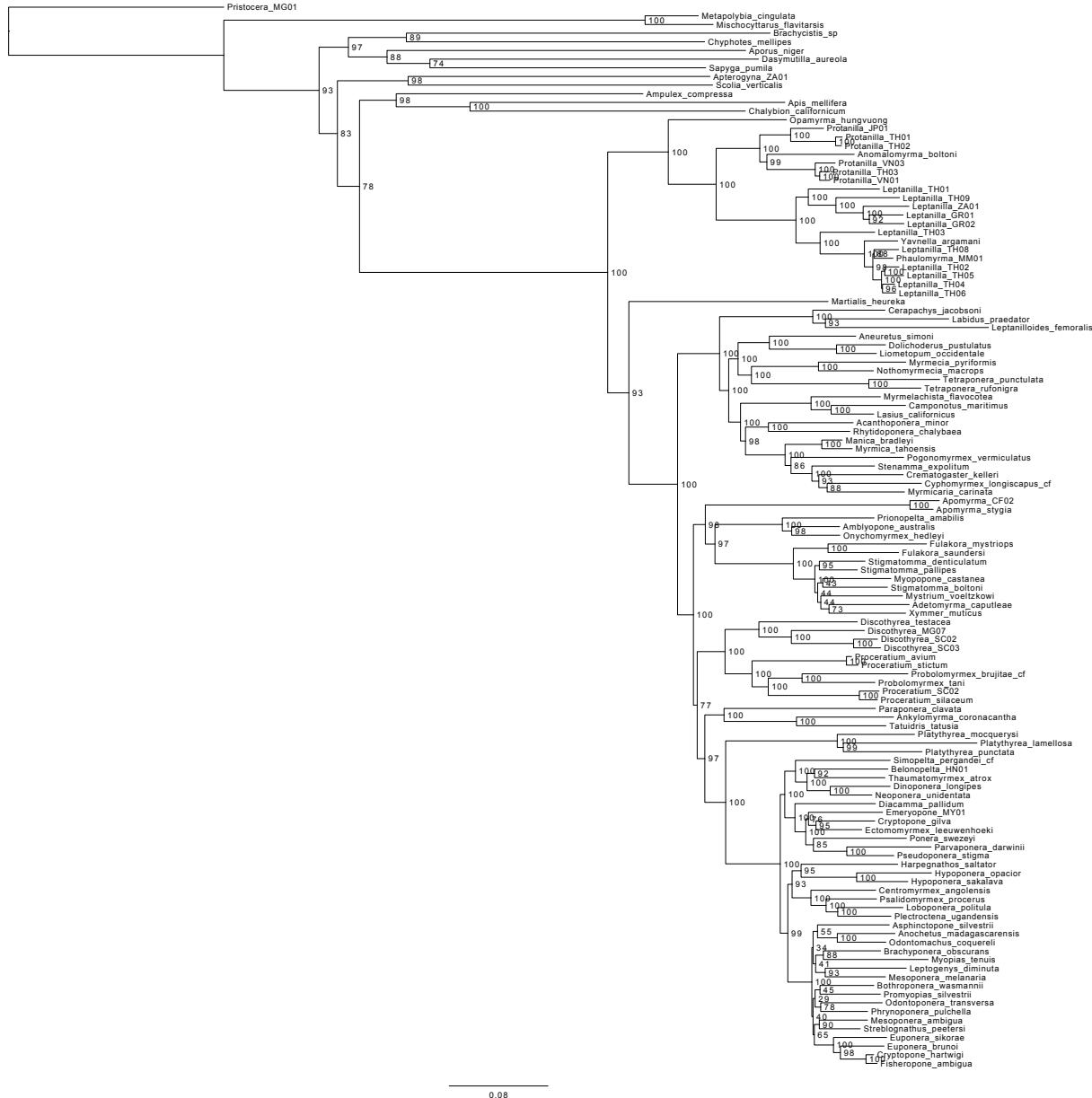
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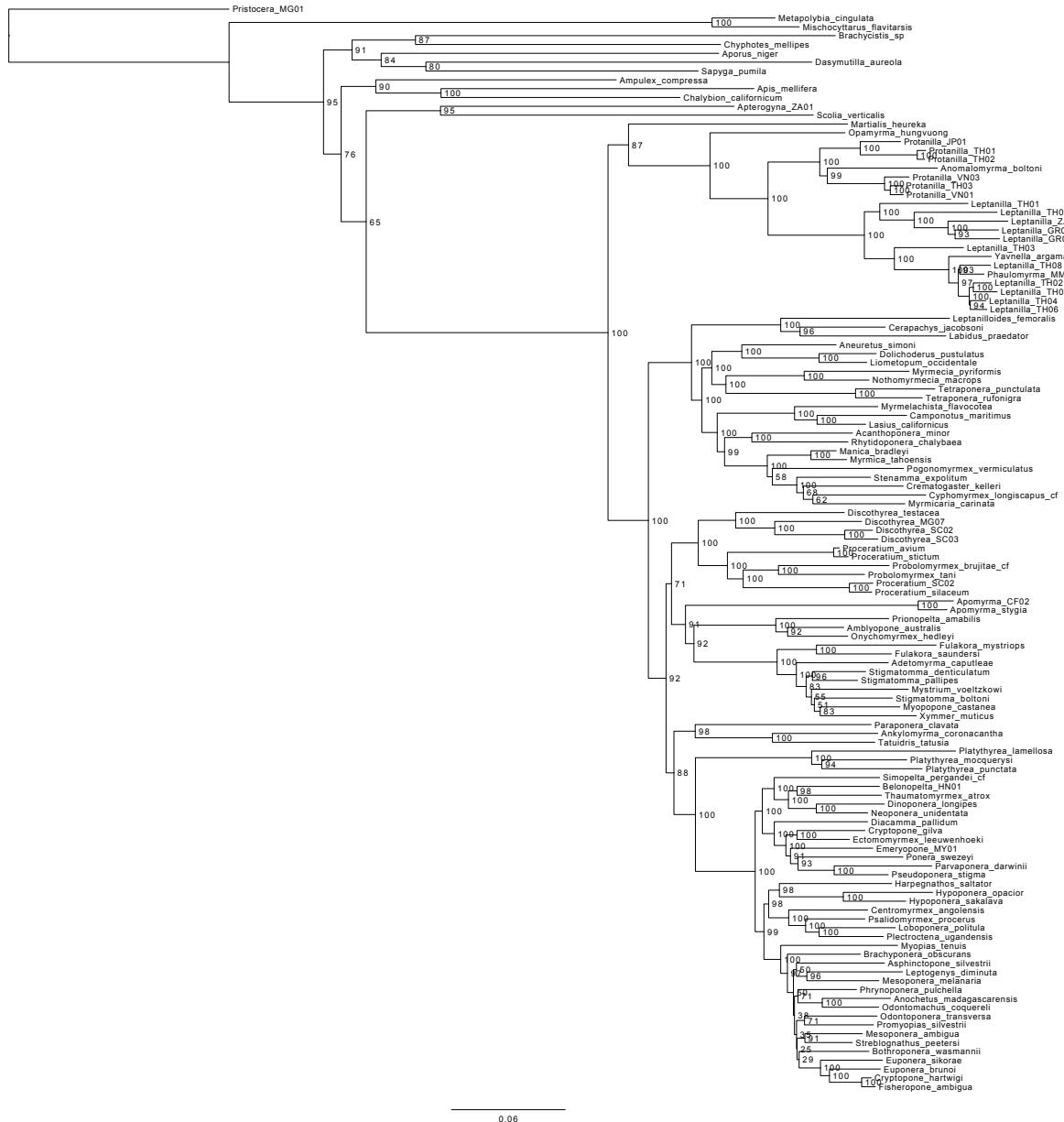
Supplementary Figure 1: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under greedy partitioning strategy for full data set.



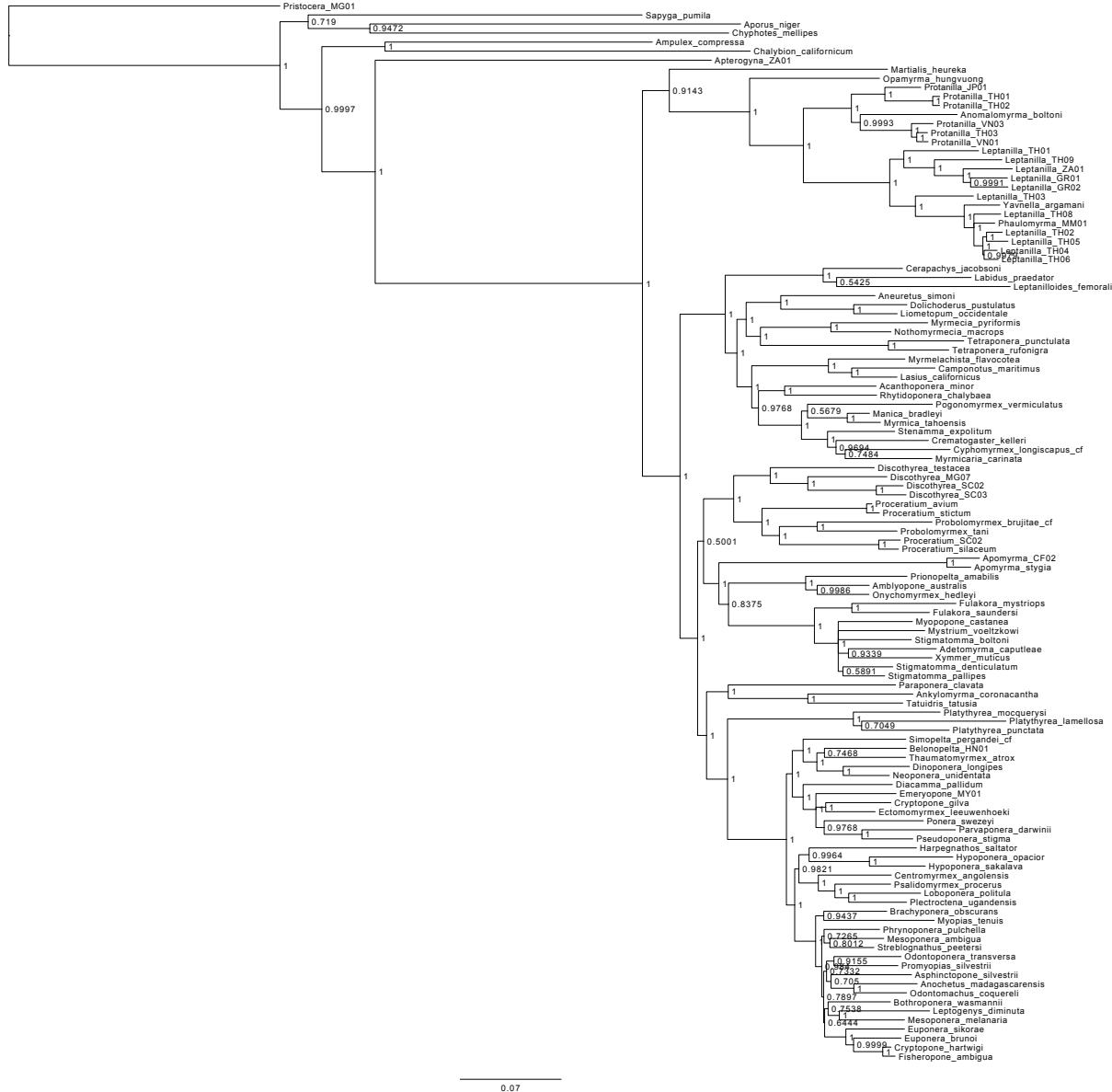
Supplementary Figure 2: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for full data set.



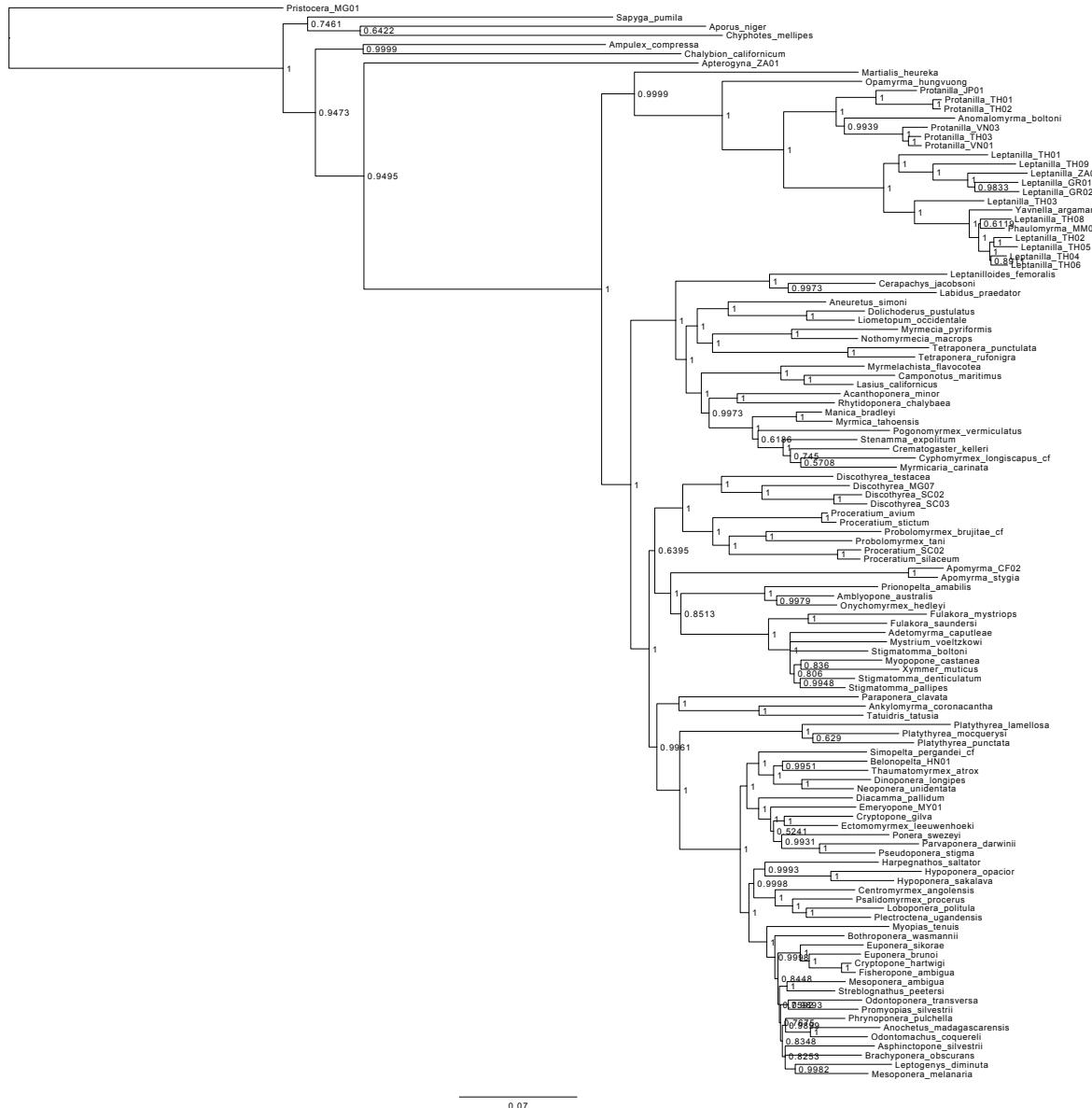
Supplementary Figure 3: Maximum-likelihood tree inferred under greedy partitioning strategy for full data set.



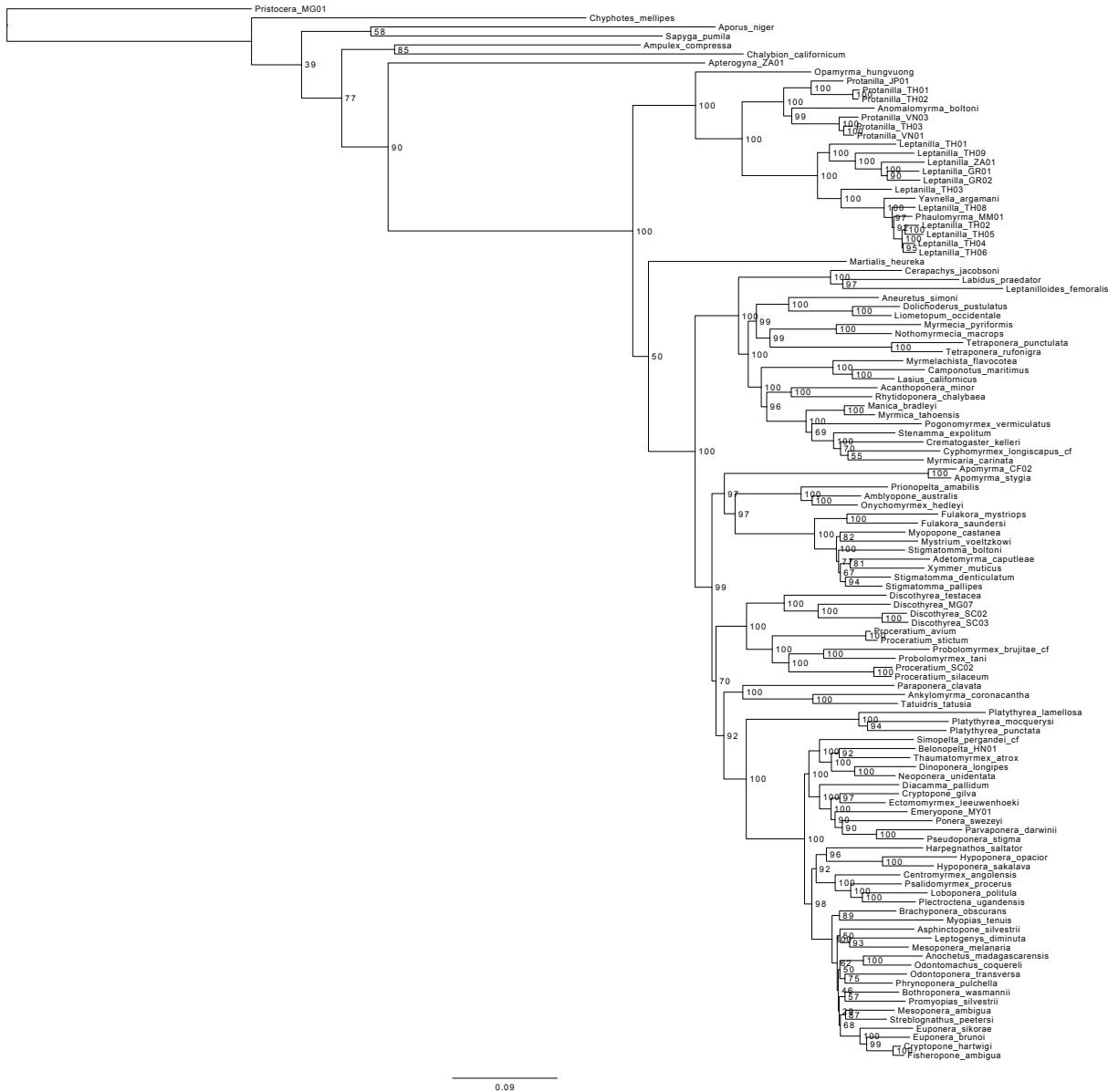
Supplementary Figure 4: Maximum-likelihood tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for full data set.



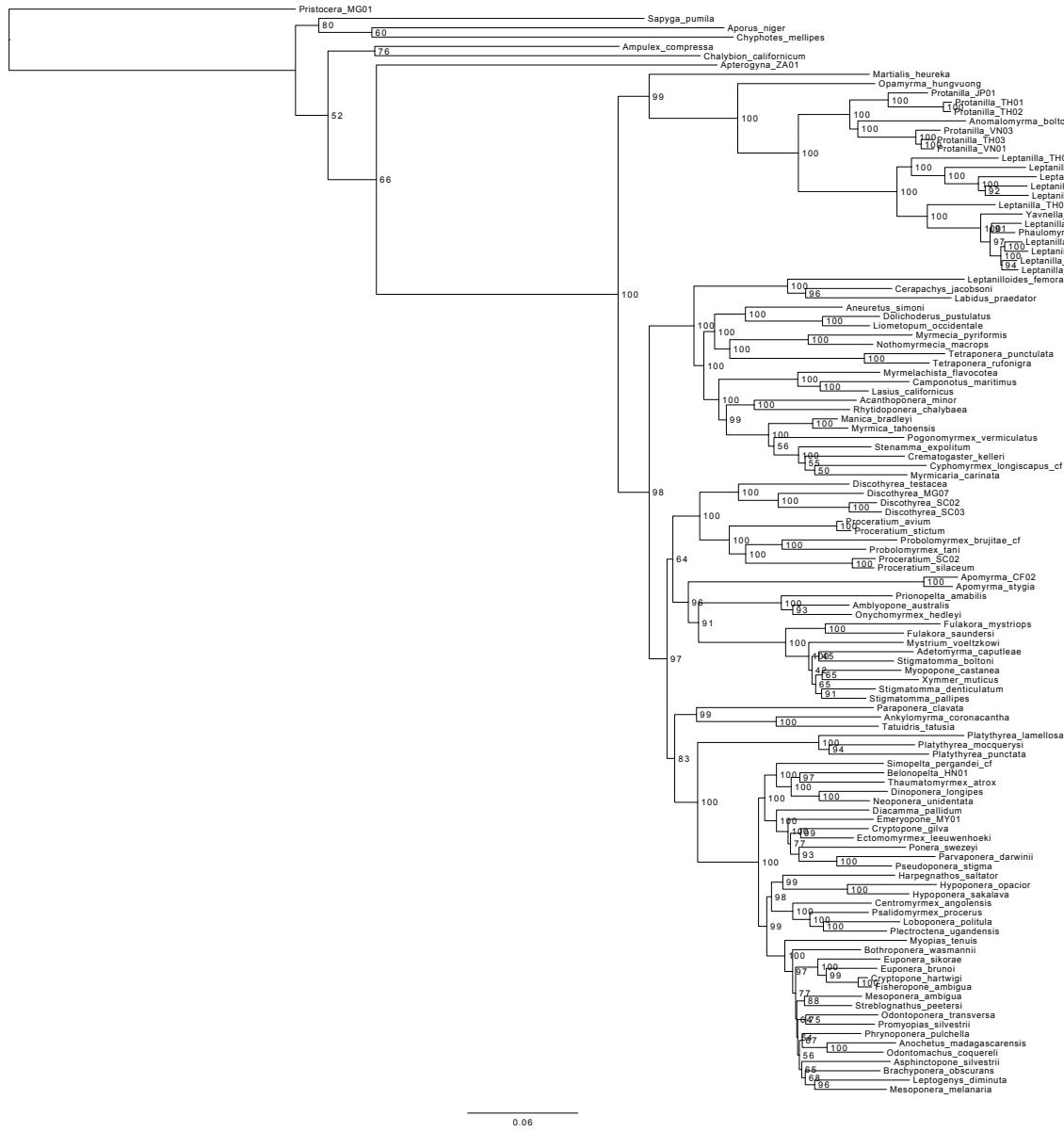
Supplementary Figure 5: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under greedy partitioning strategy for dataset with AT-rich outgroups removed.



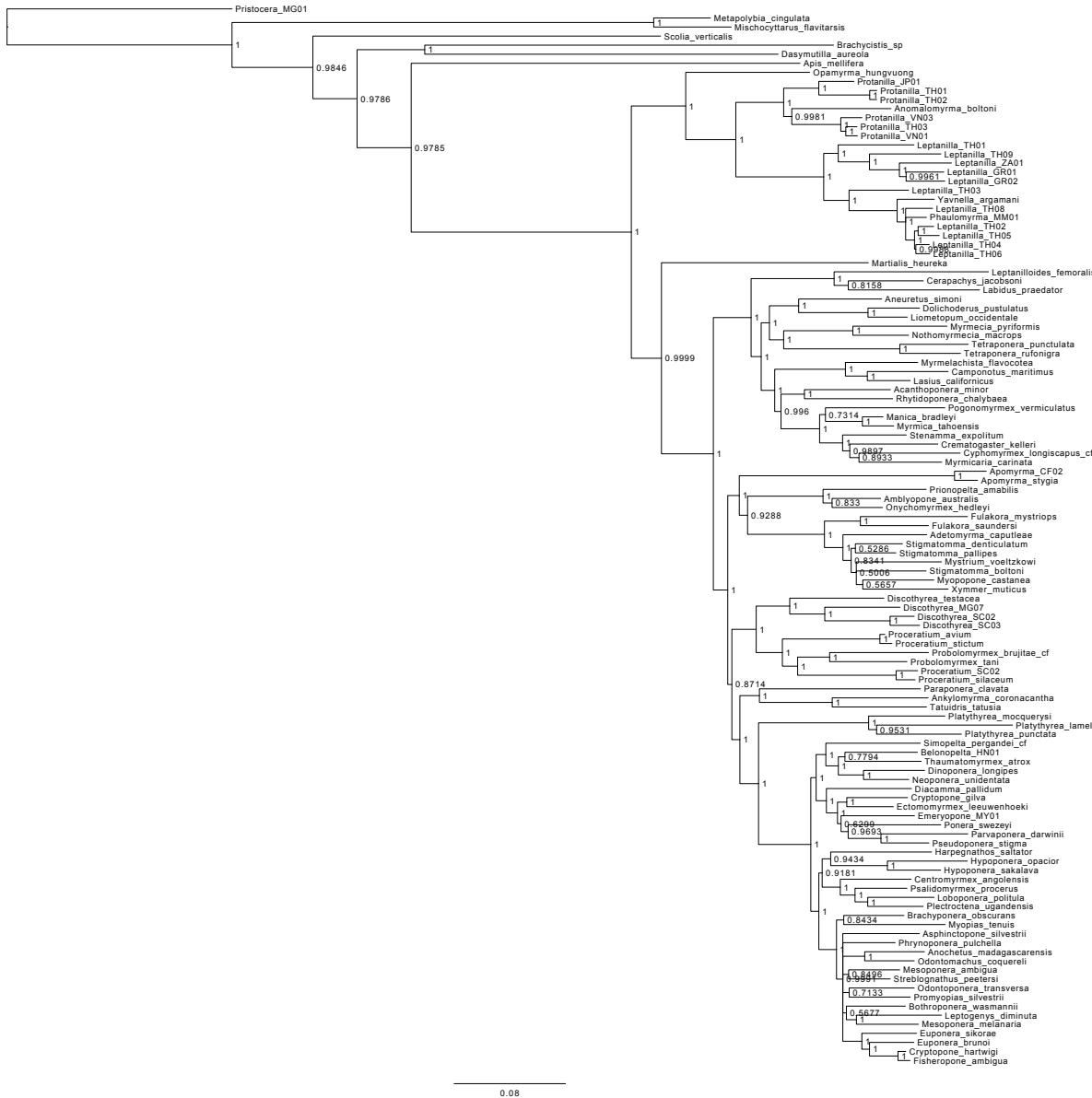
Supplementary Figure 6: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for dataset with AT-rich outgroups removed.



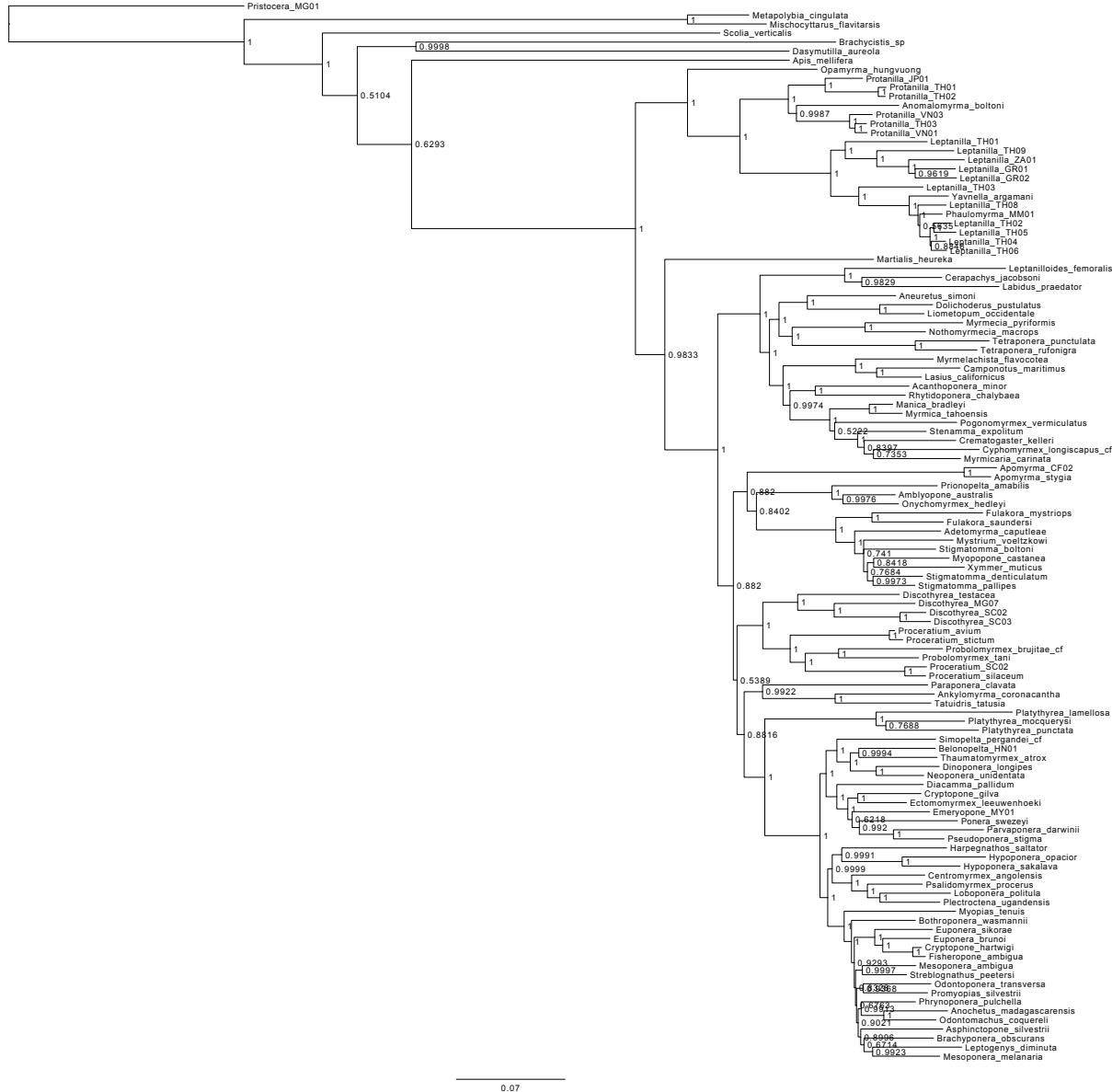
Supplementary Figure 7: Maximum-likelihood tree inferred under greedy partitioning strategy for dataset with AT-rich outgroups removed.



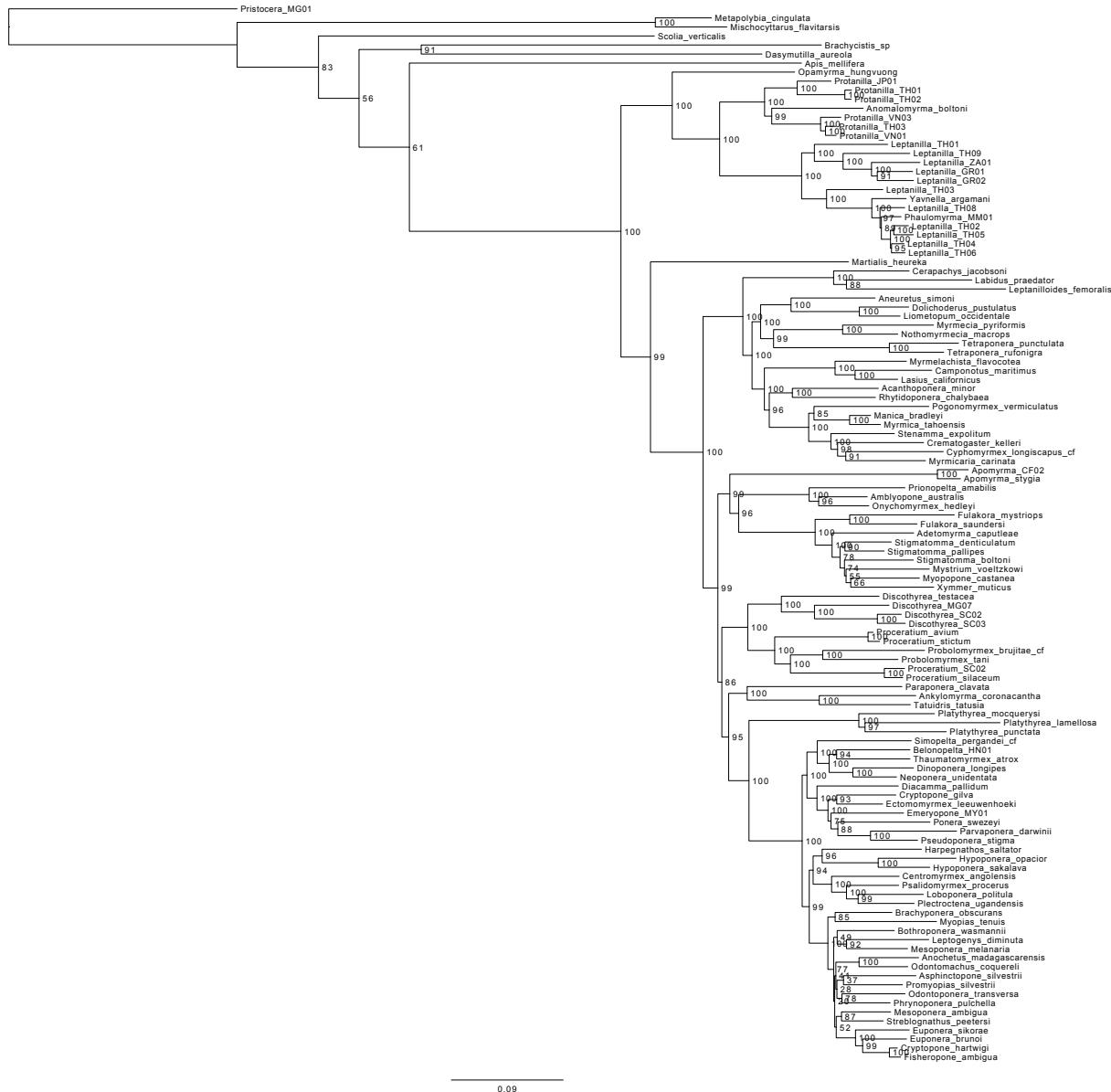
Supplementary Figure 8: Maximum-likelihood tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for dataset with AT-rich outgroups removed.



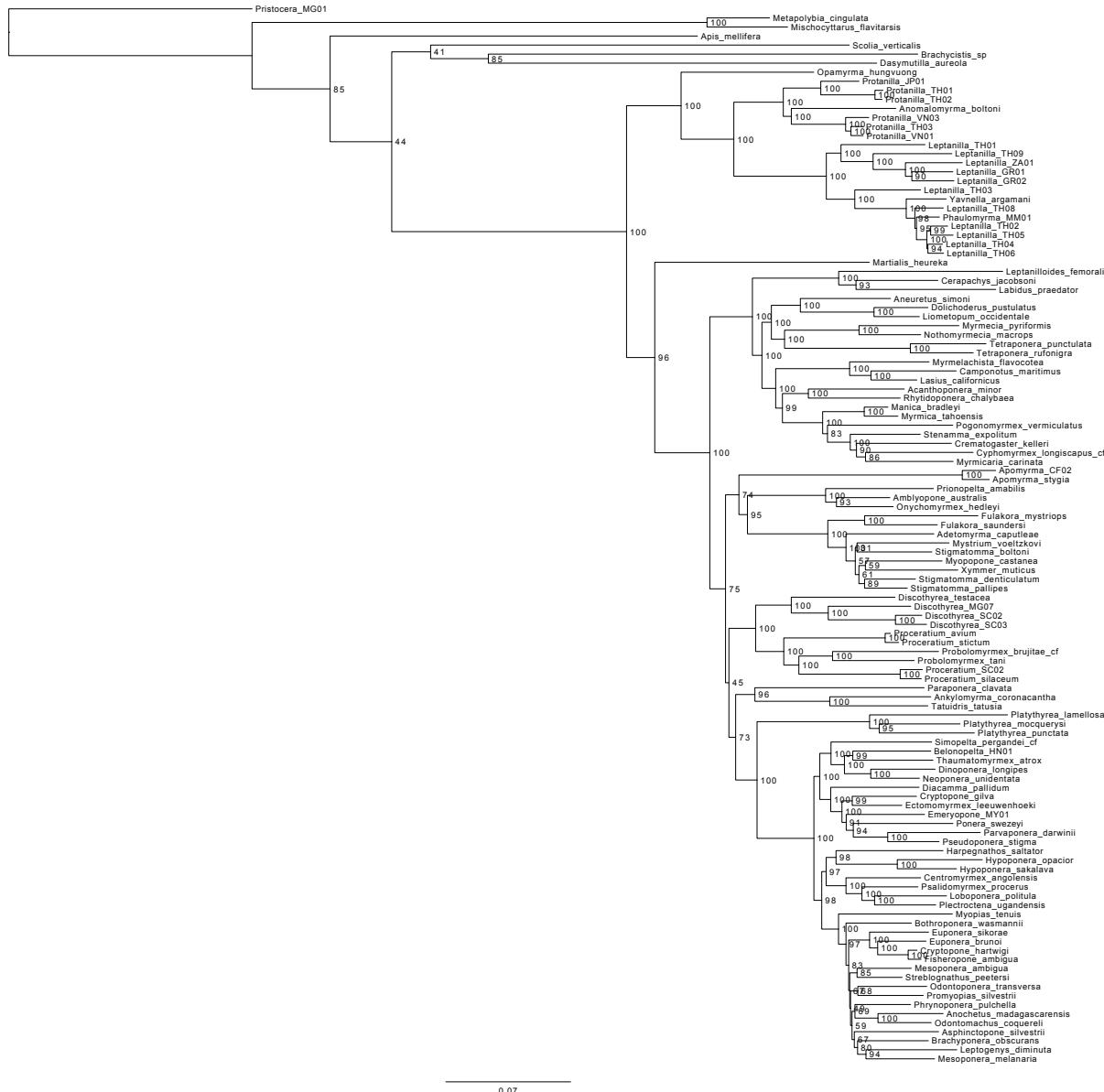
Supplementary Figure 9: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under greedy partitioning strategy for dataset with GC-rich outgroups removed.



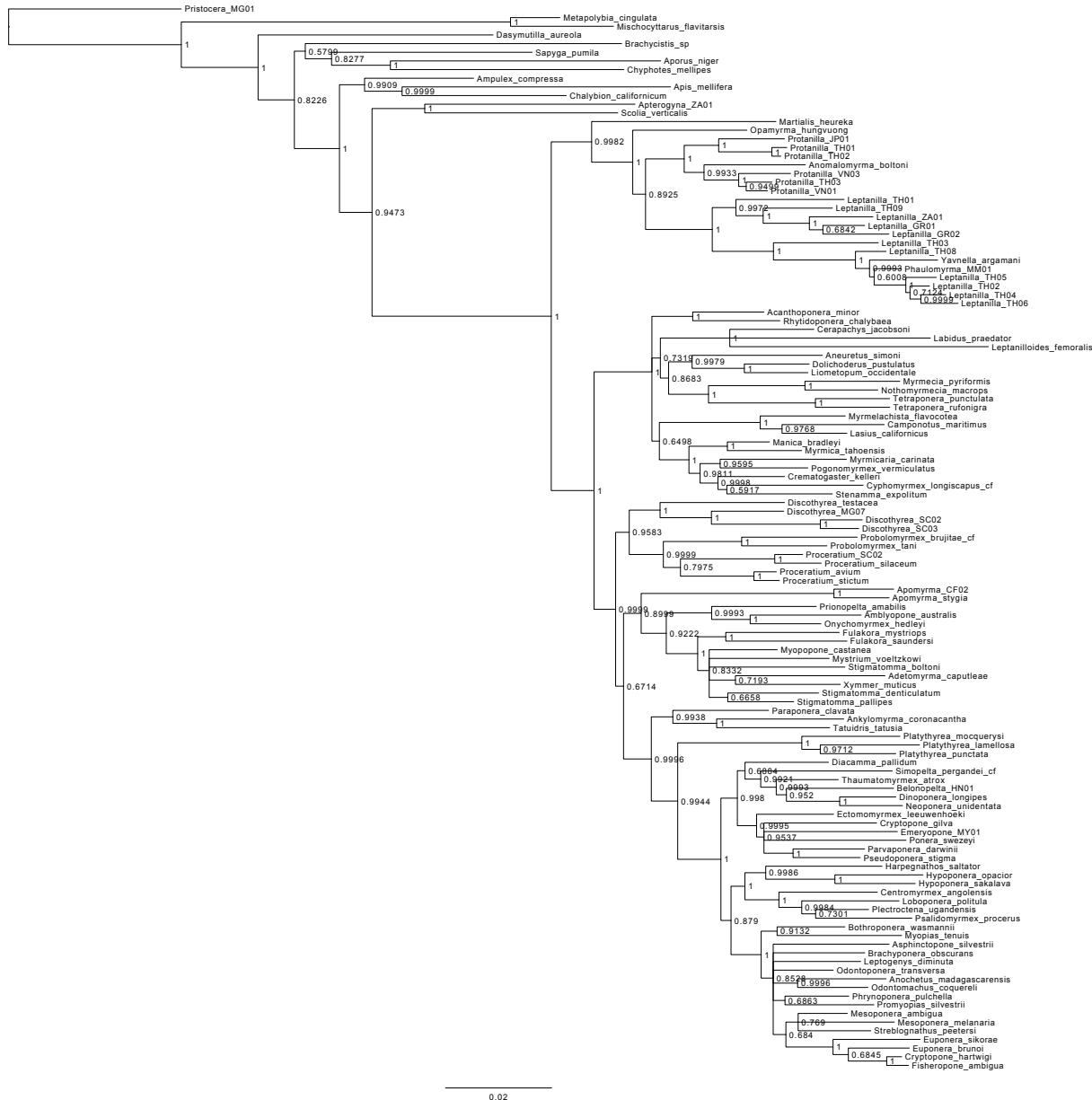
Supplementary Figure 10: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for dataset with GC-rich outgroups removed.



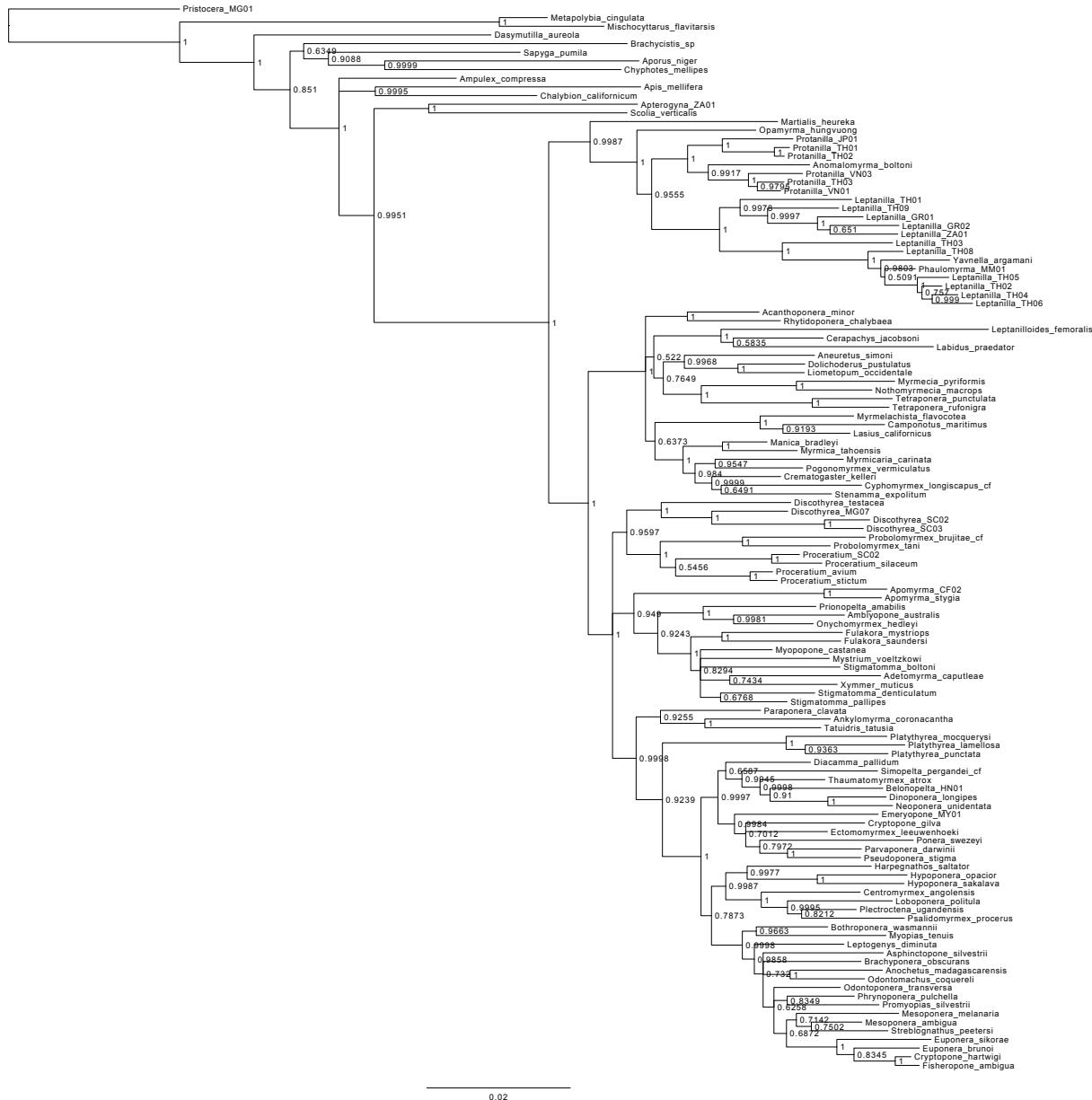
Supplementary Figure 11: Maximum-likelihood tree inferred under greedy partitioning strategy for dataset with GC-rich outgroups removed.



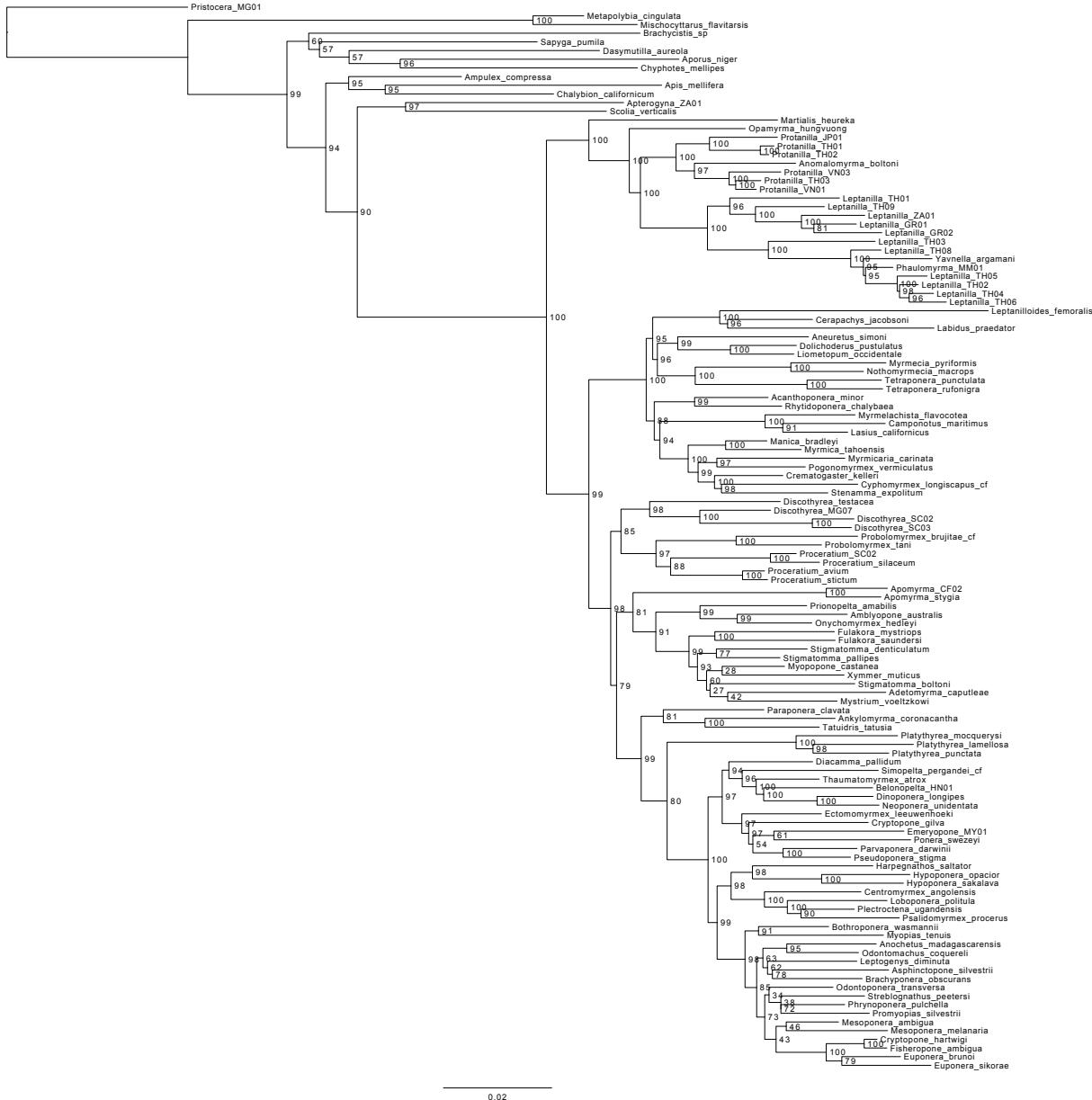
Supplementary Figure 12: Maximum-likelihood tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for dataset with GC-rich outgroups removed.

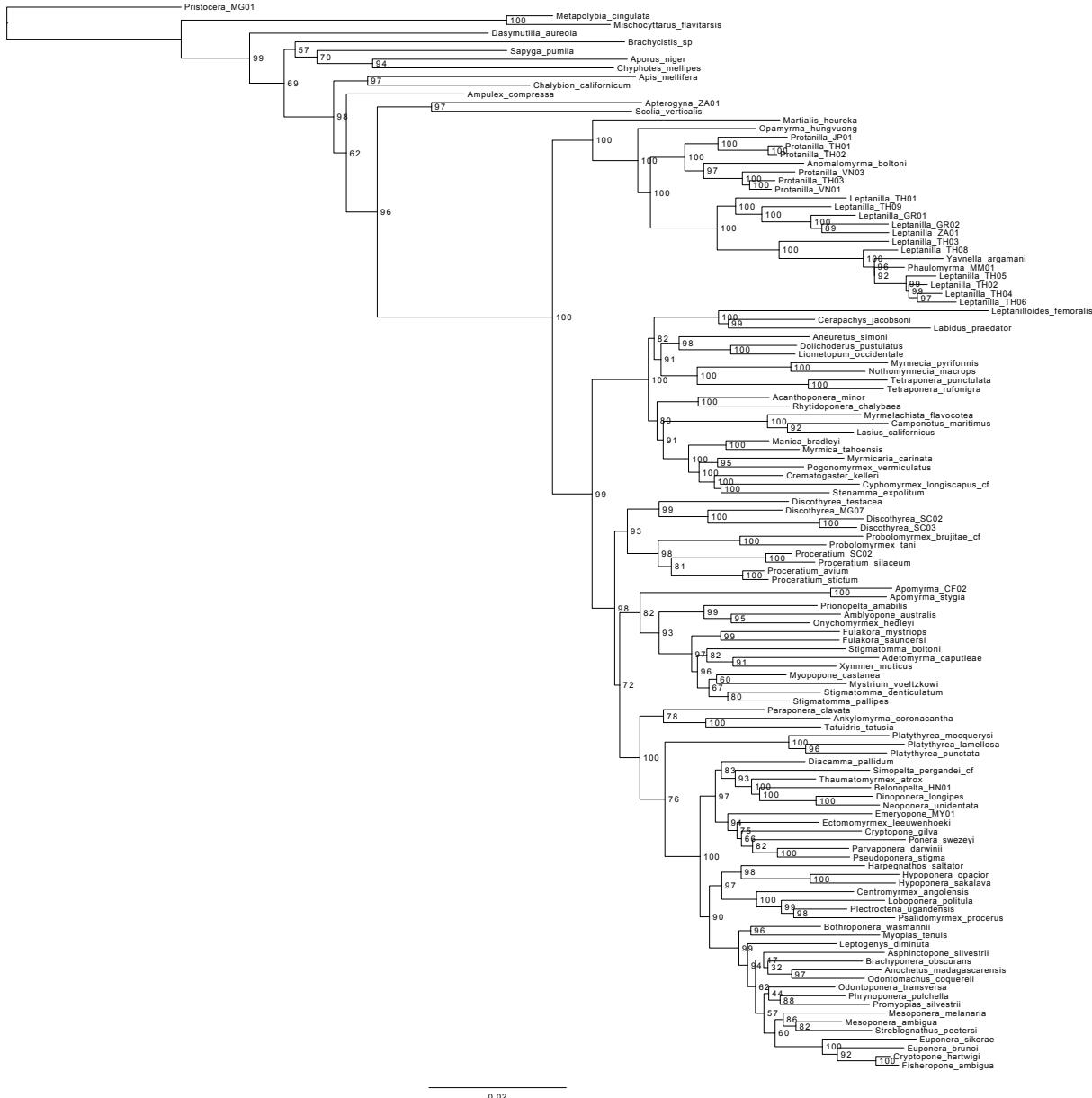


Supplementary Figure 13: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under greedy partitioning strategy for compositionally homogeneous dataset.

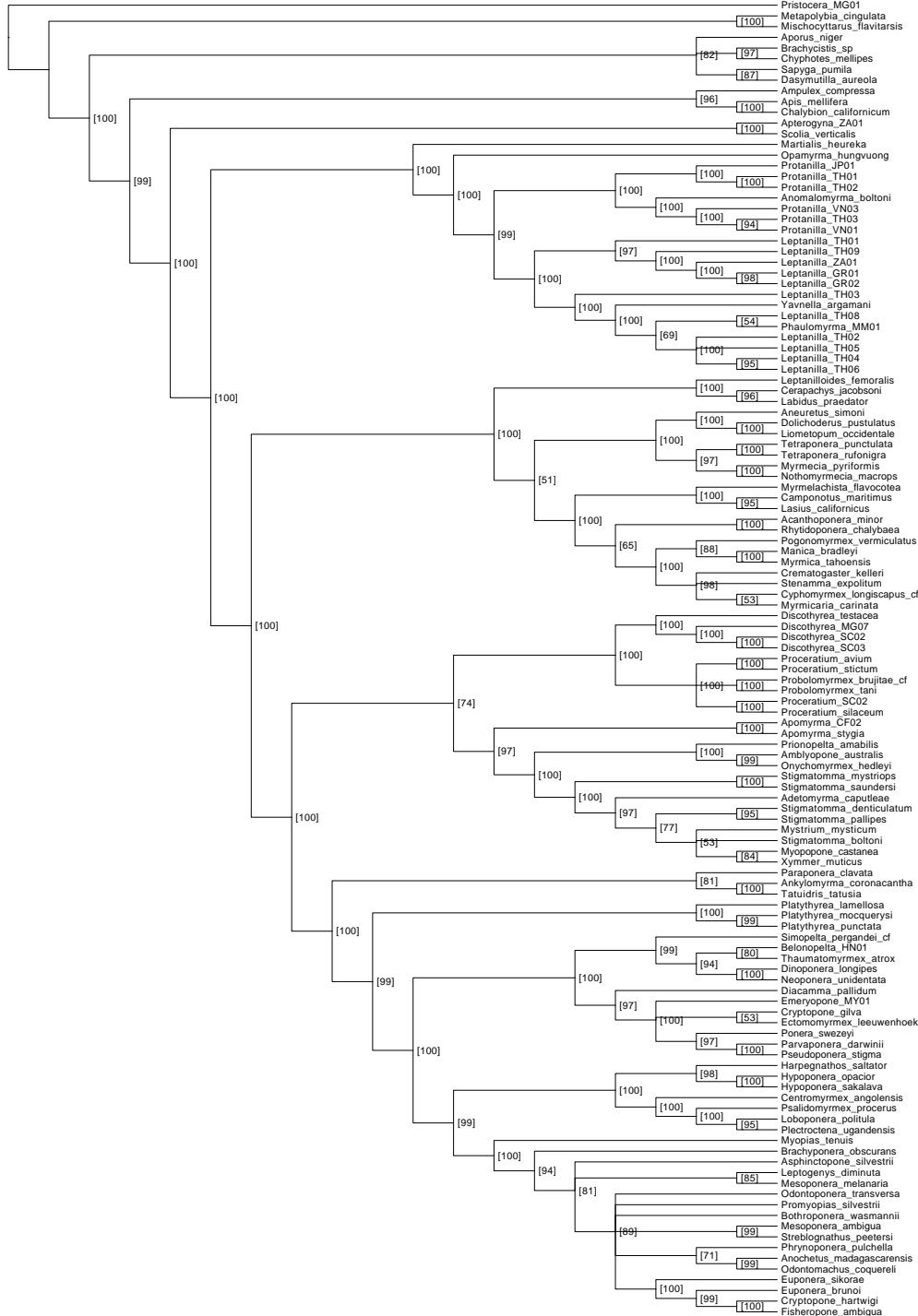


Supplementary Figure 14: Bayesian consensus tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for compositionally homogeneous dataset.

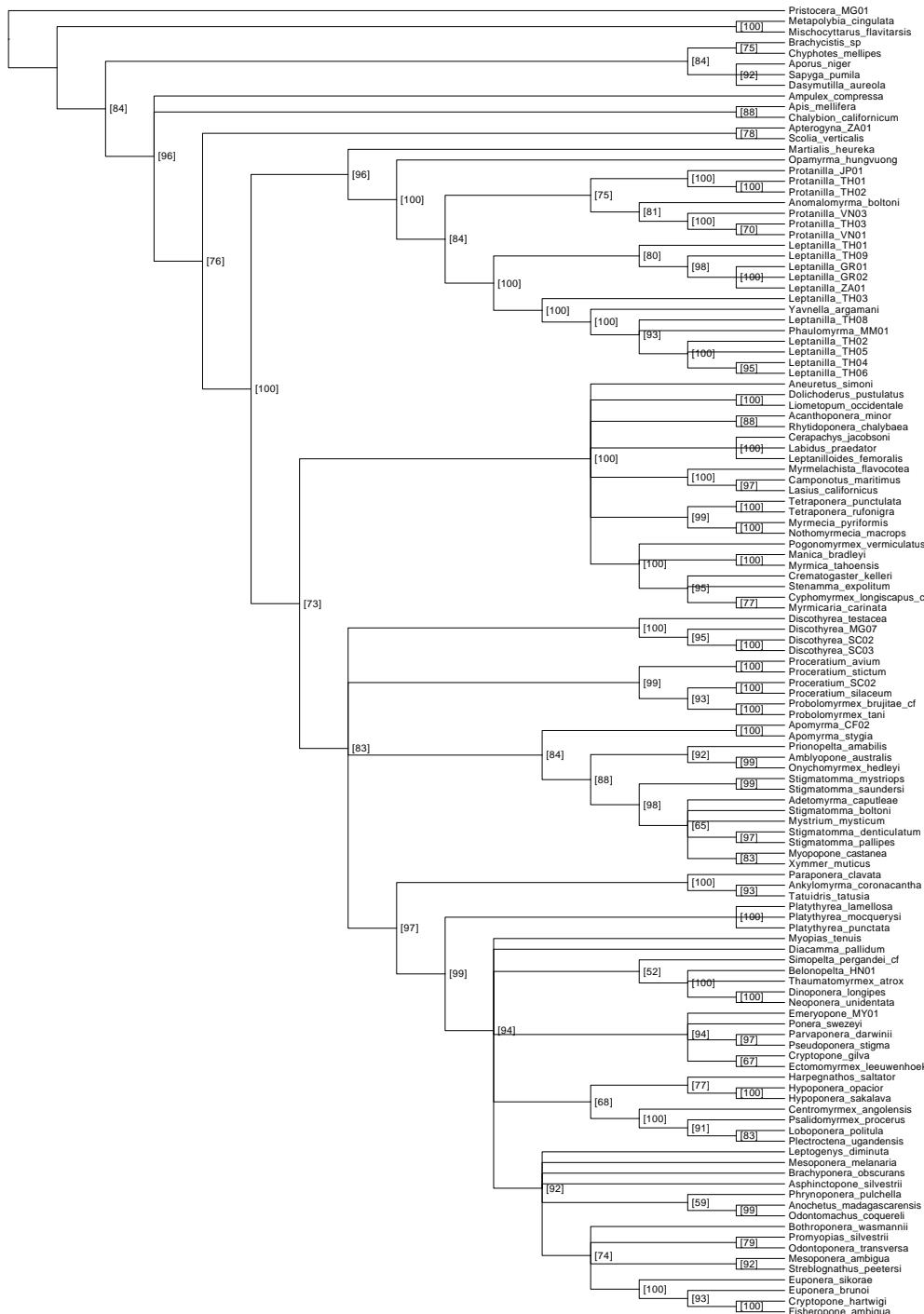




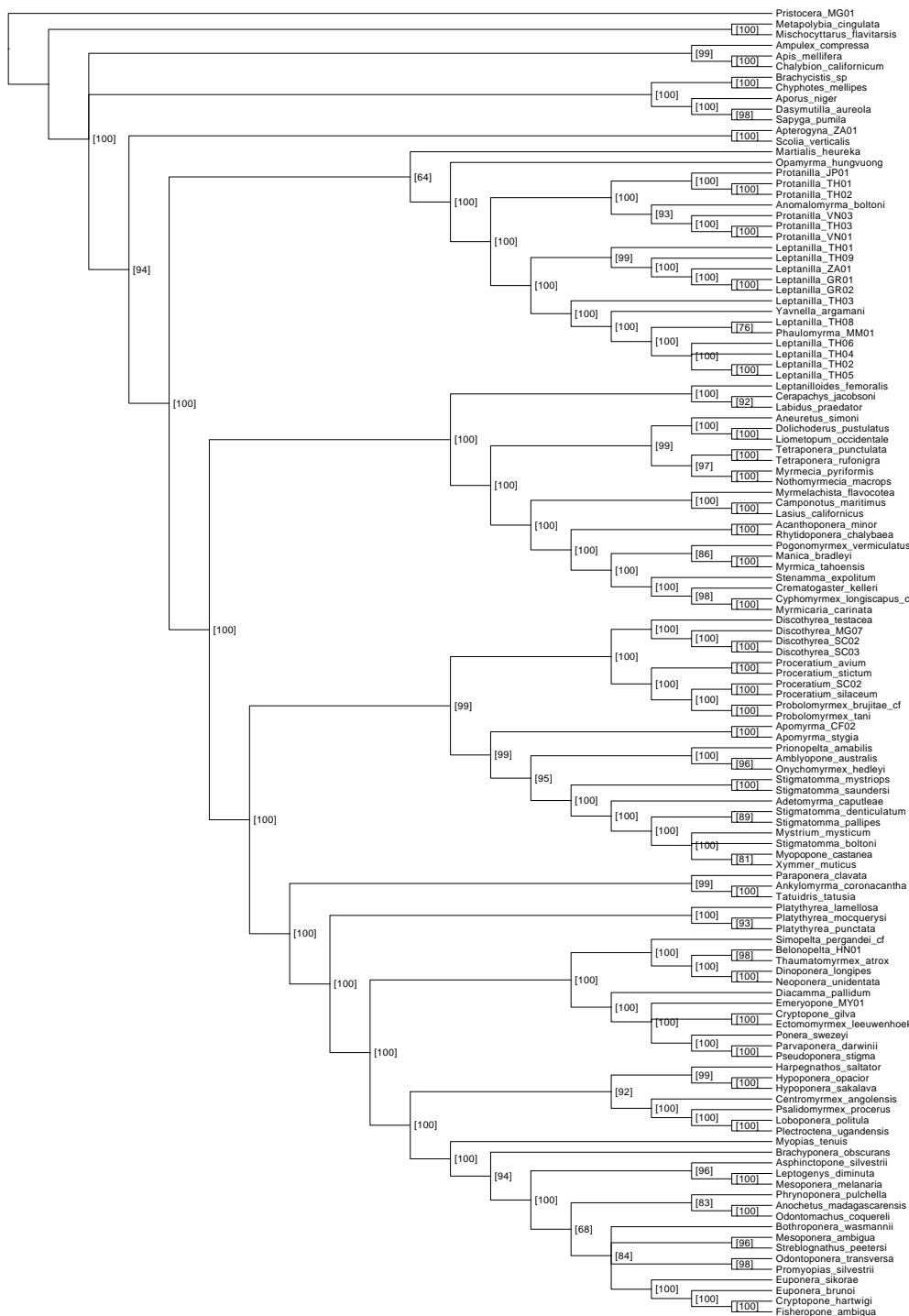
Supplementary Figure 16: Maximum-likelihood tree inferred under k-means partitioning strategy for compositionally homogeneous dataset.



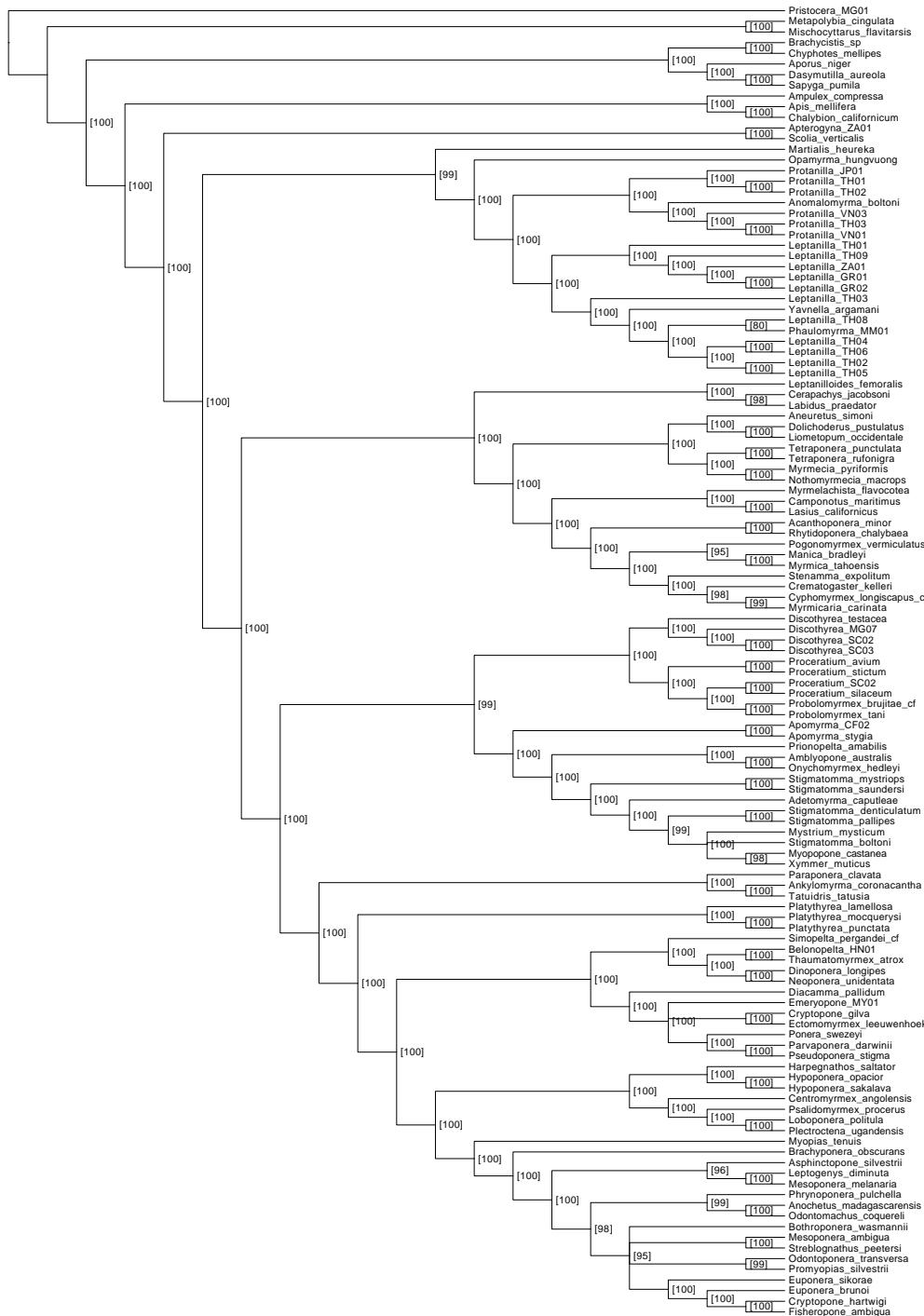
Supplementary Figure 17: Majority-rule consensus of maximum-likelihood trees inferred from 100 simulated alignments imitating first codon positions.



Supplementary Figure 18: Majority-rule consensus of maximum-likelihood trees inferred from 100 simulated alignments imitating second codon positions.



Supplementary Figure 19: Majority-rule consensus of maximum-likelihood trees inferred from 100 simulated alignments imitating third codon positions.



Supplementary Figure 20: Majority-rule consensus of maximum-likelihood trees inferred from 100 simulated alignments imitating first, second, and third codon positions combined.

Supplementary Table 1: Taxon properties in the full data set. AT and GC contents are expressed as proportions and nucleotide and gap columns contain character counts. Alignment has 7,451 sites total.

Taxon name	AT content	GC content	A	C	G	T	Gap
Acanthoponera minor	0.446	0.554	1792	2043	1967	1431	217
Adetomyrma caputleae	0.455	0.545	1822	2005	1933	1460	231
Amblyopone australis	0.452	0.548	1819	2008	1954	1448	222
Ampulex compressa	0.440	0.560	1790	2074	1958	1380	249
Aneuretus simoni	0.424	0.576	1711	2112	2054	1360	214
Ankylomyrma coronacantha	0.463	0.537	1839	1939	1943	1511	219
Anochetus madagascarensis	0.449	0.551	1833	2041	1949	1421	207
Anomalomyrma boltoni	0.514	0.486	2023	1745	1765	1696	222
Apis mellifera	0.491	0.509	1956	1813	1865	1590	225
Apomyrma CF02	0.483	0.517	1917	1883	1857	1575	219
Apomyrma stygia	0.478	0.522	1904	1906	1865	1553	223
Aporus niger	0.436	0.564	1756	2060	2012	1397	226
Apterogyna ZA01	0.438	0.562	1739	2025	2020	1413	254
Asphinctopone silvestrii	0.447	0.553	1801	2028	1976	1433	213
Belonopelta HN01	0.416	0.584	1686	2158	2072	1324	205
Bothroponera wasmannii	0.453	0.547	1833	2011	1944	1447	216
Brachycistis sp	0.502	0.498	2006	1781	1806	1614	204
Brachyponera obscurans	0.438	0.562	1781	2089	1983	1390	207
Camponotus maritimus	0.459	0.541	1823	1975	1925	1492	236
Centromyrmex angolensis	0.443	0.557	1773	2014	1998	1424	213
Cerapachys jacobsoni	0.452	0.548	1807	2002	1958	1464	220
Chalybion californicum	0.428	0.572	1753	2121	2015	1342	220
Chyphotes mellipes	0.452	0.548	1833	2021	1937	1428	232
Crematogaster kelleri	0.464	0.536	1843	1954	1923	1508	223
Cryptopone gilva	0.436	0.564	1766	2073	2013	1387	212
Cryptopone hartwigi	0.443	0.557	1791	2049	1968	1410	216
Cyphomyrmex longiscapus cf	0.469	0.531	1866	1934	1907	1530	214
Dasymutilla aureola	0.488	0.512	1965	1839	1854	1560	233
Diacamma pallidum	0.446	0.554	1801	2031	1982	1429	208
Dinoponera longipes	0.429	0.571	1723	2075	2051	1383	213
Discothyrea MG07	0.459	0.541	1856	1998	1914	1465	218
Discothyrea SC02	0.446	0.554	1802	2020	1988	1421	220
Discothyrea SC03	0.454	0.546	1835	2001	1947	1448	219
Discothyrea testacea	0.424	0.576	1737	2126	2048	1332	208
Dolichoderus pustulatus	0.456	0.544	1807	1982	1954	1488	217
Ectomomyrmex leeuwenhoeki	0.436	0.564	1764	2082	1999	1387	219
Emeryopone MY01	0.428	0.572	1748	2116	2029	1359	199
Euponera brunoi	0.441	0.559	1784	2065	1979	1410	207
Euponera sikorae	0.444	0.556	1797	2057	1966	1415	210
Fisheropone ambigua	0.444	0.556	1803	2054	1968	1413	213
Fulakora mystriops	0.491	0.509	1921	1824	1843	1620	243
Fulakora saundersi	0.454	0.546	1824	2002	1951	1467	207
Harpegnathos saltator	0.451	0.549	1815	2002	1973	1451	210
Hypoponera opacior	0.453	0.547	1799	1979	1978	1476	219
Hypoponera sakalava	0.450	0.550	1808	2006	1967	1445	219
Labidus praedator	0.463	0.537	1823	1951	1932	1525	219
Lasius californicus	0.452	0.548	1791	2012	1947	1478	223
Leptanilla GR01	0.528	0.472	2064	1698	1709	1741	239
Leptanilla GR02	0.529	0.471	2074	1692	1707	1740	238
Leptanilla TH01	0.515	0.485	2011	1732	1761	1704	243
Leptanilla TH02	0.506	0.494	1989	1775	1788	1659	240
Leptanilla TH03	0.512	0.488	2014	1742	1782	1684	229
Leptanilla TH04	0.505	0.495	1990	1783	1786	1652	240
Leptanilla TH05	0.508	0.492	1985	1757	1791	1679	239
Leptanilla TH06	0.504	0.496	1987	1786	1791	1650	237
Leptanilla TH08	0.506	0.494	1990	1779	1789	1663	230
Leptanilla TH09	0.532	0.468	2064	1661	1716	1776	234
Leptanilla ZA01	0.533	0.467	2079	1678	1689	1769	236
Leptanilloides femoralis	0.424	0.576	1730	2146	2021	1343	211
Leptogenys diminuta	0.454	0.546	1811	1997	1953	1480	210
Liometopum occidentale	0.442	0.558	1763	2043	1988	1432	225
Loboponera politula	0.431	0.569	1741	2078	2037	1379	216

Supplementary Table 1: Continued. Taxon properties in the full data set. AT and GC contents are expressed as proportions and nucleotide and gap columns contain character counts. Alignment has 7,451 sites total.

Taxon name	AT content	GC content	A	C	G	T	Gap
Manica bradleyi	0.440	0.560	1766	2060	1990	1415	219
Martialis heureka	0.466	0.534	1849	1960	1901	1520	221
Mesoponera ambigua	0.444	0.556	1792	2047	1973	1420	219
Mesoponera melanaria	0.455	0.545	1846	2013	1924	1440	222
Metapolybia cingulata	0.516	0.484	2022	1781	1745	1738	165
Mischocyttarus flavitarsis	0.530	0.470	2095	1718	1701	1757	180
Myopias tenuis	0.421	0.579	1703	2138	2055	1340	209
Myoponera castanea	0.471	0.529	1877	1935	1883	1525	231
Myrmecia pyriformis	0.464	0.536	1851	1971	1902	1500	227
Myrmelachista flavocotea	0.451	0.549	1784	2001	1961	1474	231
Myrmica tahoensis	0.438	0.562	1762	2062	1997	1406	223
Myrmicaria carinata	0.457	0.543	1821	1986	1942	1483	219
Mystrium voeltzkowi	0.476	0.524	1902	1915	1865	1535	234
Neoponera unidentata	0.443	0.557	1787	2042	1988	1420	199
Nothomyrmecia macrops	0.451	0.549	1811	2035	1935	1446	224
Odontomachus coquereli	0.445	0.555	1787	2029	1989	1436	204
Odontoponera transversa	0.456	0.544	1829	1989	1946	1464	216
Onychomyrmex hedleyi	0.463	0.537	1850	1961	1923	1495	222
Opamyrma hungvuong	0.473	0.527	1887	1935	1874	1535	220
Paraponera clavata	0.472	0.528	1873	1922	1896	1538	222
Parvaponera darwini	0.416	0.584	1706	2173	2056	1308	208
Phaulomyrma MM01	0.507	0.493	2000	1775	1781	1661	234
Phrynoponera pulchella	0.440	0.560	1783	2062	1992	1406	207
Platthyrea lamellosa	0.460	0.540	1816	1975	1934	1516	210
Platthyrea mocquerysi	0.443	0.557	1792	2053	1977	1418	211
Platthyrea punctata	0.466	0.534	1837	1968	1896	1530	220
Plectroctena ugandensis	0.445	0.555	1791	2025	1986	1426	216
Pogonomyrmex vermiculatus	0.465	0.535	1857	1963	1903	1507	219
Ponera swezeyi	0.440	0.560	1766	2049	2007	1416	213
Prionopelta amabilis	0.481	0.519	1903	1894	1857	1569	228
Pristocera MG01	0.468	0.532	1863	1923	1907	1512	228
Probolomyrmex brujitae cf	0.413	0.587	1673	2151	2094	1309	224
Probolomyrmex tani	0.444	0.556	1777	2034	1979	1427	234
Proceratium avium	0.443	0.557	1787	2041	1979	1412	215
Proceratium SC02	0.461	0.539	1836	1957	1941	1501	216
Proceratium silaceum	0.458	0.542	1834	1968	1950	1483	216
Proceratium stictum	0.447	0.553	1794	2024	1971	1430	215
Promyopias silvestrii	0.457	0.543	1839	1985	1923	1456	219
Protanilla JP01	0.499	0.501	1964	1817	1798	1643	229
Protanilla TH01	0.517	0.483	2038	1768	1718	1699	228
Protanilla TH02	0.518	0.482	2037	1759	1724	1703	228
Protanilla TH03	0.490	0.510	1946	1861	1836	1604	204
Protanilla VN01	0.491	0.509	1941	1849	1836	1615	210
Protanilla VN03	0.491	0.509	1943	1853	1832	1607	214
Psalidomyrmex procerus	0.436	0.564	1776	2078	2005	1383	209
Pseudoponera stigma	0.419	0.581	1704	2138	2066	1324	219
Rhytidoponera chalybaea	0.452	0.548	1814	2005	1961	1458	213
Sapyga pumila	0.407	0.593	1689	2193	2105	1257	205
Scolia verticalis	0.484	0.516	1939	1894	1833	1554	231
Simopelta pergandei cf	0.441	0.559	1777	2058	1998	1422	196
Stenamma expolitum	0.451	0.549	1787	1981	1979	1466	237
Stigmatomma boltoni	0.474	0.526	1884	1926	1869	1535	237
Stigmatomma denticulatum	0.454	0.546	1826	2007	1938	1455	225
Stigmatomma pallipes	0.456	0.544	1833	1997	1930	1460	231
Strebognathus peetersi	0.438	0.562	1768	2074	1997	1399	213
Tatuidris tatusia	0.478	0.522	1886	1888	1879	1559	239
Tetraponera punctulata	0.434	0.566	1729	2064	2017	1401	240
Tetraponera rufonigra	0.448	0.552	1788	2021	1961	1440	241
Thaumatomyrmex atrox	0.438	0.562	1752	2054	2010	1415	214
Xymmer muticus	0.472	0.528	1871	1925	1891	1538	225
Yavnella argamani	0.511	0.489	1993	1754	1775	1688	241

Supplementary Table 2: Results of compositional homogeneity tests for all data partitions. P-values below 0.05 considered significant violation of homogeneity assumption.

Partition	Corrected test p-value	Chi-squared p-value
Full data set	0.000	0.000
28S	0.000	1.000
abdA	0.000	0.990
abdA 1st pos	0.905	1.000
abdA 2nd pos	0.262	1.000
abdA 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
argK	0.000	0.000
argK 1st pos	0.698	1.000
argK 2nd pos	0.987	1.000
argK 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
Antp	0.000	0.000
Antp 1st pos	0.847	1.000
Antp 2nd pos	0.520	1.000
Antp 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
EF1aF2	0.000	0.000
EF1aF2 1st pos	1.000	1.000
EF1aF2 2nd pos	0.555	1.000
EF1aF2 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
LW Rh	0.000	0.000
LW Rh 1st pos	1.000	1.000
LW Rh 2nd pos	0.926	1.000
LW Rh 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
NaK	0.000	0.025
NaK 1st pos	0.558	1.000
NaK 2nd pos	0.460	1.000
NaK 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
POLD1	0.000	0.000
POLD1 1st pos	0.004	1.000
POLD1 2nd pos	0.766	1.000
POLD1 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
Top 1	0.000	0.000
Top 1 1st pos	0.106	1.000
Top 1 2nd pos	0.964	1.000
Top 1 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
Ubx	0.000	0.009
Ubx 1st pos	0.038	1.000
Ubx 2nd pos	0.202	1.000
Ubx 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
Wg	0.000	0.000
Wg 1st pos	0.749	1.000
Wg 2nd pos	0.923	1.000
Wg 3rd pos	0.000	0.000
All 1st pos	0.028	1.000
All 2nd pos	1.000	1.000
All 3rd pos	0.000	0.000

Supplementary Table 3: Calibration fossils used in divergence dating analysis.

Fossil genus	Fossil species	Last inclusive clade (total group)	Last inclusive clade (our group)	Deposit	Age	Reference(s)	Notes	
<i>Prisomyrmex</i>	<i>rasnitsyni</i>	<i>Prisomyrmex</i>	<i>Crematogaster</i>	Danish amber	36	<i>Prisomyrmex</i> in late Eocene Danish amber (Dusky & Radchenko, 2011).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2015): 42 (offset), 52 (median), 73 (95% quantile)	
<i>Aphaenogaster</i>	<i>antiqua</i>	<i>Aphaenogaster</i> sensu stricto	<i>Sternamma</i>	Rovno amber	36	<i>Aphaenogaster antiqua</i> from Rovno amber (Dusky and Petrensky, 2002).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2015): 42 (offset), 52 (median), 73 (95% quantile)	
<i>Myrmica</i>	<i>longispinosa</i>	<i>Myrmica</i>	<i>Myrmica</i>	Baltic amber	36	Four <i>Myrmica</i> species (<i>longispinosa</i> , <i>ridua</i> , <i>intermedia</i> , <i>evanescens</i>) from Baltic amber (although similar to the plesiomorph clade-group (Radchenko et al., 2007)).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2015): 42 (offset), 60 (median), 85 (95% quantile)	
<i>Gnamptogenys</i>	<i>europea</i>	<i>Gnamptogenys</i>	<i>Rhytidoponera</i>	<i>Mymelachista</i> plus	New Jersey amber	36	Two species of <i>Gnamptogenys</i> in Baltic amber (Dusky, 2009).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2015): 92 (offset), 95 (median), 120 (95% quantile)
<i>Kyromyrmex</i>	<i>neffi</i>	<i>Formicinae</i>	<i>Lasius</i>	<i>Lasius</i>	Kishinev Formation	46	<i>Lasius glauum</i> in Kishinev Formation (Lapolla and Greenwald, 2015).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2015): 92 (offset), 95 (median), 120 (95% quantile)
<i>Lasius</i>	<i>glauum</i>	<i>Lasius</i>	<i>Camponotus</i>	Grube Messel, Germany	47	<i>Oecophylla longiceps</i> from Grube Messel, Darmstadt, Germany, middle Eocene, Lateitan (ca. 47.7 Ma) (Dusky et al., 2008).	Node calibration in Chomicki et al. (2015)* of crown Pseudomyrmecinae with truncated normal prior, mean 55, sd 5; truncated at 55 Ma.	
<i>Oecophylla</i>	<i>longiceps</i>	<i>Oecophylla</i>	<i>Teraponera</i>	Oise amber	52	Three species of <i>Teraponera</i> in Oise amber (Arau et al. (2011); Arta pers. comm.).	Considered crown <i>Teraponera</i> , given mandible structure (reduced teeth) and loss of occipital.	
<i>Teraponera</i>	<i>sp</i> Oise	<i>Teraponera</i>	<i>Teraponera</i> crown	<i>Teraponera punctatula</i>	Baltic amber	36	<i>Teraponera simplex</i> in Baltic amber (Dusky and Rasnitsyn, 2009), with some features of <i>T. nigra</i> group.	Node calibration for <i>Teraponera</i> , given mandible structure (reduced teeth) and loss of occipital.
<i>Teraponera</i>	<i>simplex</i>	<i>Teraponera</i> crown	<i>Teraponera punctatula</i>	<i>Myrmecia</i> plus	Mc-Clay, Denmark	53.5	<i>Teraponera punctatula</i> from Mc-Clay, Stoltkilen Isle of Funen Denmark, Eocene. Ilypnus (Koch and Andrei, 1997); Achenbach et al. (2011).	Second most abundant species of ant in Green River Formation.
<i>Teraponera</i>	<i>rebelkiae</i>	<i>Myrmecia</i> inae	<i>Nathorhynchium</i>	<i>Nathorhynchium</i>	Baltic amber	36	<i>Teraponera punctatula</i> from Baltic amber (Mayr, 1868; Baron, Urban, 2000).	Node calibration in Boudinot et al. (2010): 78 (offset), 95 (median), 110 (95% quantile). Because of possible paraphyly of <i>Aneuretinae</i> we assume a conservative assignment to the total group of (Aneuretinae plus Dolichoderinae), i.e. crown dolichoderomorphs.
<i>Teraponera</i>	<i>janzeni</i>	<i>Nathorhynchium</i>	<i>Dolichoderus</i>	<i>Dolichoderus</i>	Green River Formation	51.5	<i>Dolichoderus bohlsi</i> from Green River Formation (Dusky and Rasnitsyn, 2003).	Node calibration in Boudinot et al. (2010): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile) in Boudinot et al. (2010).
<i>Liamenopum</i>	<i>oligocentrum</i>	<i>Liamenopum</i>	<i>Liamenopum</i>	<i>Liamenopum</i> plus	Canadian Grass Lake amber	78	<i>Chononyx</i> in Grass Lake amber (Mekler et al., 2013); Boudinot et al. (2016).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 80 (median), 100 (95% quantile)
<i>Chronomyrmex</i>	<i>mediofasciatus</i>	Dolichoderinae	<i>Anetetius</i> plus	<i>Anetetius</i> plus	Sakhalin amber	57.5	<i>Anetetius deforms</i> from Sakhalin amber (Dusky, 1988).	Different calibration (Baltic amber) in Ward et al. (2015).
<i>Anetetius</i>	<i>deformis</i>	Dolichoderinae	<i>Labisidius</i> plus	<i>Labisidius</i> plus	Baltic amber	36	Three species of <i>Procerataphys</i> in Baltic amber (Dusky, 1997).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Procerataphys</i>	<i>jaevis</i>	Dorylinae	<i>Cerapachys</i> plus	<i>Cerapachys</i> plus	Baltic amber	52	<i>Platythyrea distessyi</i> in Oise amber (Arau et al., 2011).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Playthyrea</i>	<i>duskyi</i>	<i>Playthyrea</i>	<i>Hypoponera</i>	<i>Hypoponera</i>	Baltic amber	36	<i>Hypoponera aravita</i> in Baltic amber (Dusky, 1997); Dusky and Rasnitsyn, 2009).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Hypoponera</i>	<i>atania</i>	<i>Odontomachus</i>	<i>Odontomachus</i>	<i>Odontomachus</i>	Bilina, Czech Republic, Early Miocene	18	<i>Odontomachus bilineatus</i> from Bilina, Czech Republic, Early Miocene (Burdigalian, 16–20 Ma) (Wappler et al., 2014).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Anochetus</i>	<i>luctuus</i>	<i>Anochetus</i>	<i>Ponerina</i>	<i>Ponerina</i>	Anchensee, Austria	17	<i>Anochetus inornatus</i> from Dominican amber (Urban, 1986; Andrade, 1994; Mackay, 1991).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Ponera</i>	<i>mayri</i>	<i>Ponera</i>	<i>Sigmoiotonna</i>	<i>Sigmoiotonna</i>	Baltic amber	36	<i>Hypoponera bilineata</i> from Baltic amber (Dusky, 1997).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Sigmoiotonna</i>	<i>grohni</i>	<i>denticulatum</i> group (XMAS clade)	<i>Sigmoiotonna</i>	<i>Sigmoiotonna</i>	Baltic amber	36	<i>Sigmoiotonna grohni</i> in Baltic amber, said to be incertae sedis of <i>S. denticulatum</i> group (Dusky, 2009).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Sigmoiotonna</i>	<i>electrina</i>	<i>Priompeda</i>	<i>Priompeda</i>	<i>Priompeda</i>	Dominican amber	17	Undescribed <i>Priompeda</i> species from Dominican amber (Dusky, 2009).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Broadponera</i>	<i>electrina</i>	Proterotinae	<i>Discocyrtus</i> plus	<i>Discocyrtus</i> plus	Baltic amber	36	Three species of <i>Broadponera</i> in Baltic amber (Dusky, 2009).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 54 (median), 70 (95% quantile)
<i>Proceratium</i>	<i>ecocentrum</i>	<i>Proceratium</i>	<i>Proceratium</i> plus	<i>Proceratium</i> plus	Baltic amber	36	<i>Agreeconymex diablogyrus</i> (Agreeconymicinae) in Baltic amber (Wheeler, 1915).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 60 (median), 90 (95% quantile)
<i>Agreeconymex</i>	<i>dusburgi</i>	<i>Tanadris</i>	<i>Tanadris</i>	<i>Tanadris</i>	Myanmar amber	36	<i>Agreeconymex diablogyrus</i> (Agreeconymicinae) in Baltic amber (Wheeler, 1915).	Node calibration in Ward et al. (2014): 42 (offset), 60 (median), 90 (95% quantile)
<i>Camponotus</i>	<i>janovi</i>	<i>Fornicidae</i>	<i>Fornicidae</i>	<i>Fornicidae</i>	Charente, France	97	<i>Antochaea crenulata</i> and <i>G. occidentalis</i> in Charente amber (Berthet et al., 2008; Berthet, 2015; Berthet and Grimaldi, 2016).	<i>Syntecomyrmes</i> now considered a junior synonym (Berthet and Grimaldi, 2016).
<i>Camponotus</i>	<i>crenulata</i>	<i>Fornicidae</i>	<i>Apoclea</i>	<i>Apoclea</i>	Lulworth, Dorset, England	14.3	<i>Pomphagomyrmex difficilis</i> (Rasnitsyn and Lutzenhovskii, 1998).	Age range: 14.5 to 140 Ma.
<i>Pomphagomyrmex</i>	<i>difficilis</i>		<i>Claphoxites</i>	<i>Claphoxites</i>	Cato formation, Ceará, Brazil	117.6	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 122.46 to 112.6).	Said to be Amblyoponinae. Note that amblyoponines are Thymidae, not Tiphidae (sensu Pilgrim et al., 2008).
<i>Archiphilpha</i>	<i>rasnitsyni</i>	Anthoboscinae	<i>Tibialidea</i> plus	<i>Tibialidea</i> plus	Myanmar amber	97	<i>Agreeconymex diablogyrus</i> (Agreeconymicinae) in Baltic amber (Wheeler, 1915).	Not definitely assigned to thymid or tiphid (s.s.) groups.
<i>Thananthaphila</i>	<i>nix</i>	Thymidae	<i>Rhaptosomidae</i>	<i>Rhaptosomidae</i>	Myanmar amber	97	Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).	Engel (2008) argues that this is a crown rhabtosomatid.
<i>Ectophyllosooma</i>	<i>gongora</i>		<i>Mesophyllosooma</i>	<i>Mesophyllosooma</i>	Cato formation, Ceará, Brazil	117.6	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 122.46 to 112.6).	<i>Mesophyllosooma</i> likely a stem rhabtosomatid.
<i>Mesophyllosooma</i>	<i>cearensis</i>		<i>Apoxys</i>	<i>Apoxys</i>	Myanmar amber	97	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).	<i>Antipoxys</i> (2000). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).
<i>Paleogenesia</i>	<i>wallesi</i>	Psepsiinae	<i>Sarpa</i>	<i>Sarpa</i>	Burmian amber	97	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).	<i>Antipoxys</i> (2000). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).
<i>Cretospoga</i>	<i>restimicola</i>	Sarpyidae	<i>Dynamilla</i>	<i>Dynamilla</i>	Baltic amber	97	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).	There are many other Cretaceous pempredonines.
<i>Protomutilla</i>	<i>conquisensis</i>	Mymidae	<i>Scelidae</i>	<i>Scelidae</i>	Burmanian, Spain	127.7	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 130.0 to 125.45).	At least seven other species of <i>Cretoscola</i> have been described, all from the Cretaceous.
<i>Cretoscola</i>	<i>hippocastana</i>	Amphilicidae	<i>Amplexus</i>	<i>Amplexus</i>	Cato formation, Ceará, Brazil	117.6	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 122.46 to 112.6).	<i>Obi</i> (2004). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 122.46 to 112.6).
<i>Carriodus</i>	<i>gracilis</i>	Amphilicidae	<i>Amplexus</i>	<i>Amplexus</i>	Myanmar amber	97	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).	<i>Antipoxys</i> (2000). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).
<i>Cretospoga</i>	<i>familiana</i>	Pemphredonidae	<i>Apis</i>	<i>Apis</i>	Myanmar amber	97	<i>Claphoxites</i> (Rodriguez et al., 1990). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).	<i>Poniar</i> and <i>Danforth</i> (2006). Date from fossilsworks (midpoint of 99 to 94.3).
<i>Cretoscola</i>	<i>burrmanni</i>	Anthophila				94.3		
<i>Melittosphecius</i>								

Supplementary Table 4: Taxa included in the study with GenBank accession numbers and specimen voucher information. Detailed collection data for each species is available by searching for the specimen code on AntWeb (www.antweb.org).

Taxon	Voucher	2BS	Wg	AA	LR	F2	ArgK	TopI	Uba	DP	NK	AP
Acanthoponera minei	CASENT039772	EF012953	EF013661	EF013081	EF013533	EF013371	KJ861140	KJ861751	KJ860480	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Adetomyrma caputae	CASENT049148	EF012954	EF013662	EF013082	EF013534	EF013372	KJ861160	KJ861667	KU671730	KU671870	KU671947	KU671793
Ambylomyrmex australis	CASENT020229	KJ860052	KJ861949	KJ861131	KJ861515	KJ859868	KJ861141	KJ861752	KJ860481	KU671874	KU671948	KU671794
Archomyrmex	CASENT040074	EF012955	EF013663	EF013083	EF013535	EF013373	KJ861161	KJ861668	KJ860482	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Atylomyrmex coronatulus	CASENT040673	EF012956	EF013664	EF013084	EF013536	EF013374	KJ861162	KJ861669	KJ860483	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Ascochetus madagascarensis	CASENT049859	EF012957	EF013665	EF013085	EF013537	EF013375	KJ861163	KJ861670	KJ860484	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Asomalomyrmex boltoni	CASENT021703	KJ8671445	KJ8671598	KJ8672069	KJ8671547	KJ8671496	KJ8671656	KJ8671719	KJ867182	KU671925	KU672002	KU671848
Apomyrma CF02	CASENT008607	KJ8671402	KJ8671555	KJ8672026	KJ8671600	KJ8671453	KJ8671607	KJ8671733	KJ867184	KU671793	KU671951	KU671797
Apomyrma stygi	CASENT0007017	EF012958	EF013667	EF013086	EF013538	EF013376	KJ861164	KJ861752	KJ860480	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Asphinctopone silvestri	CASENT041712	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Belonopelta HN01	CASENT0235904	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Bonomomyrmex saundersi	CASENT020074	EF012959	EF013668	EF013087	EF013539	EF013377	KJ861165	KJ861671	KJ860485	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Brachyponera obscurior	CASENT008658	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Camponotus maritimus	CASENT010668	AY867464	AY867480	EF012959	EF013669	EF013098	KJ861166	KJ861672	KJ860486	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Centromyrmex angolensis	CASENT041747	EF012960	EF013667	EF013097	EF013539	EF013378	KJ861167	KJ861673	KJ860487	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Cerapachys jacobseni	CASENT010623	KJ862310	KJ862350	KJ862384	KJ862371	KJ862378	KJ862310	KJ862350	KJ860488	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Crematogaster kelleri	CASENT049885	KJ859905	KJ861793	KJ861182	KJ861567	KJ859719	KJ860961	KJ861563	KJ860292	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Cryptopone ilviva	CASENT0106309	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Cryptopone hartwigi	CASENT0217039	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Cryptopone longiscapus cf	CASENT0200605	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Dipogon piceus	CASENT0106139	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Dinoponera longipes	CASENT000463	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Discothyrea MG07	CASENT002942	EF012961	EF013667	EF013097	EF013539	EF013379	KJ861168	KJ861673	KJ860489	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Discothyrea SC02	CASENT015938	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Discothyrea SC03	CASENT016165	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Discothyrea testacea	CASENT0270725	KJ8671446	KJ8671599	KJ8672079	KJ8671659	KJ8671497	KU671658	KU671721	KU671784	KU671929	KU672006	KU671852
Dolichoderus pustulatus	CASENT0106164	FJ940028	FJ939995	KJ8671659	KJ8672072	KJ8671602	KJ8671602	KJ8671602	KJ8671602	KU671930	KU672007	KU671853
Ectomomyrmex leeuwenhoekii	CASENT030436	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Emeryomyrmex Y01	CASENT0252048	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Euoploca brunnei	CASENT0297649	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Euoploca sikorae	CASENT048747	EF013032	EF013670	EF013160	EF013540	EF013370	KJ861169	KJ861698	KJ860490	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Fisheropone ambiguia	CASENT0289205	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Harpagoxenus saltator	CASENT017953	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Hipoponera opacior	CASENT0094069	AY703555	AY703622	AY703683	AY703736	AY703735	EF013424	KJ861659	KU671659	KU671721	KU671784	KU671854
Hipoponera salakava	CASENT0094141	EF012967	EF013670	EF013124	EF013549	EF013370	KJ861170	KJ861699	KJ860491	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Labidus praedator	CASENT0106227	KJ523222	KJ523223	KJ523289	KJ523281	KJ523284	KJ523285	KJ523287	KJ523289	KJ523290	KJ523291	KJ523292
Lepisiotina JP01	CASENT0106236	EF012969	EF013670	EF013170	EF013547	EF013370	KJ861171	KJ861699	KJ860492	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Lepisiotilla GR01	CASENT0106607	JN967846	JN967846									
Lepisiotilla GR02	CASENT0106607	JN967846	JN967846									
Lepisiotilla TH01	CASENT011951	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilla TH02	CASENT0129721	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilla TH03	CASENT0129721	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilla TH04	CASENT0129695	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilla TH05	CASENT0134655	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilla TH06	CASENT0134655	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilla TH08	CASENT0122755	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilla TH09	CASENT0122755	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Lepisiotilloides ZA01	CASENT0106085	AY867452	AY867472	AY867468	AY867483	AY867483	EF013432	KJ861172	KJ861662	KJ860493	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Lepisiotopon diminutus	CASENT0106180	KF013036	KF013223	KJ523359	KJ523359	KJ523381	KJ523347	KJ523369	KJ523369	KJ523370	KJ523371	KJ523372
Liomotopon occidentale	CASENT0106078	AY867453	AY867472	AY867468	AY867483	AY867483	EF013433	KJ861173	KJ861663	KJ860494	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Loboponera politula	CASENT0093095	EF013065	EF013262	EF013131	EF013545	EF013370	KJ861174	KJ861664	KJ860495	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Maniaca brasiliensis	CASENT0106022	KJ861662	KF013022	KF013222	KF013546	KF013370	KJ861175	KJ861665	KJ860496	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Mesoponera darwini	CASENT0084950	AY703552	AY703622	AY703683	AY703735	AY703735	EF013477	KJ861176	KJ861666	KJ860497	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Mesoponera ambigua	CASENT0147114	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Mesoponera melanaria	CASENT0145371	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Mivopone tenuis	CASENT0106147	KJ861704	KJ861755	KJ8617208	KJ861750	KJ8617455	KJ8617611	KJ8617674	KJ8617737	KU671787	KU671795	KU671801
Myoponone castanea	CASENT0106147	KJ861704	KJ861755	KJ8617208	KJ861750	KJ8617455	KJ8617611	KJ8617674	KJ8617737	KU671787	KU671795	KU671801
Myrmecia pyriformis	CASENT0106087	AY703567	AY703635	AY703702	AY703769	AY703769	EF013466	KF013270	KJ523260	KJ523260	KJ523260	KJ523260
Myrmelachista flavocosta	CASENT0106049	EF013017	EF013275	EF013131	EF013547	EF013370	KJ861176	KJ861662	KJ860498	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Myrmicaria taboensis	CASENT0096991	EF013049	EF013260	EF013132	EF013548	EF013371	KJ861177	KJ861663	KJ860499	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Myrmicaria tarsalis	CASENT0106161	KF013041	KF013261	KF013133	KF013549	KF013372	KJ861178	KJ861664	KJ860500	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Neoponera davisi	CASENT0084947	AY703557	AY703625	AY703686	AY703735	AY703735	EF013497	KJ861179	KJ861665	KJ860501	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Neoponera amabilis	CASENT0252775	KJ8617409	KJ8617562	KJ8617203	KJ8617562	KJ8617562	KJ8617616	KJ8617616	KJ860502	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Pseudolomyrmex pectinifer	CASENT0106137	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Procerastrum avium	CASENT0059014	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Procerastrum SC02	CASENT0159684	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Procerastrum silaceum	CASENT0235164	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Procerastrum scitulum	CASENT0059019	AY703557	AY703625	AY703686	AY703735	AY703735	EF013498	KJ861180	KJ861666	KJ860502	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Procerastrum scitulum	CASENT0059019	AY703557	AY703625	AY703686	AY703735	AY703735	EF013498	KJ861180	KJ861666	KJ860502	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Protomilla JP01	CASENT0106102	EF013051	EF013266	EF013168	EF013548	EF013370	KJ861181	KJ861667	KJ860503	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Protomilla TH01	CASENT01061976	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Protomilla TH02	CASENT0128922	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Protomilla TH03	CASENT019791	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Protomilla VN01	CASENT0179564	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Protomilla VN03	CASENT0179565	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX						
Pseudolomyrmex pectinifer	CASENT0086085	EF013052	EF013267	EF013169	EF013548	EF013370	KJ861182	KJ861668	KJ860504	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Rhytidomyrmex tarsalis	CASENT0061641	KF013053	KF013268	KF013170	KF013548	KF013370	KJ861183	KJ861669	KJ860505	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Scaphisomopsis perigaudiae	CASENT0242526	EF013067	EF013269	EF013171	EF013548	EF013370	KJ861184	KJ861670	KJ860506	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Scaphisomopsis perigaudiae	CASENT0086074	EF013061	EF013261	EF013173	EF013548	EF013370	KJ861185	KJ861671	KJ860507	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Scaphisomopsis perigaudiae	CASENT0086074	EF013061	EF013261	EF013173	EF013548	EF013370	KJ861185	KJ861671	KJ860507	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Scaphisomopsis perigaudiae	CASENT0086074	EF013061	EF013261	EF013173	EF013548	EF013370	KJ861185	KJ861671	KJ860507	XXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Stenammaplexa expolita	CASENT0052774	KJ8616091	KJ8616091	KJ86								