Supporting Information

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SI Text

Search for Records. To document the distribution of ant genera, we consulted with taxonomic and regional expert on ants, performed an extensive literature search, and consulted museum collections (both electronic databases and pinned specimen).

We used Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com) as the starting point for the literature search. We started with the search term "Formicidae" and then the search term "ant" (including translations into numerous languages; that is, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, Japanese and Korean). Furthermore, we also performed a more detailed search in Google Scholar of the literature for each of the 300 extant genera, with search for each genus plus region combination, especially if that combination was considered interpolated in our first model or considered a "hotspot of ignorance" by our models. We followed references cited by papers in a hierarchical fashion, ultimately consulting more than 3,500 different scientific papers.

Search variable	Specific language, museum, or expert
List of languages consulted	Latin (Formicidae), Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Thai.
Museum consulted	Albert J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection (Michigan State University)
	Australian National Insect Collection, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
	California Academy of Sciences (Antweb.org)
	Clemson University Arthropod Museum
	Kansas State University Entomology Collection
	Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard)
	Museum of Southwestern Biology Division of Arthropods Collections
	Natural History Museum of Los Angeles
	North Carolina State University Insect Museum
	University of New Hampshire Insect and Arachnid Collections
	Zoological Museum of the Natural History Museum of Denmark
Expert consulted	Leanne Alonso (United States)

Search variable	Specific language, museum, or expert
	Gary Alpert (United States)
	Inge Ambretch (Colombia)
	Frank Azorsa (Peru)
	Himender Bharti (India)
	Abel Bernadou (France)
	Roberto Brandao (Brazil)
	Fabiana Cuezzo (Argentina)
	Shawn Dash (United States)
	Stephane De Greef (Cambodia)
	Flavia Esteves (Brazil)
	Rodrigo Feitosa (Brazil)
	John Fellowes (China)
	Fernando Fernandez (Colombia)
	Brian Fisher (California, United States),
	Sarah Groc (French Guiana)
	Nihara Gunawardene (Sri Lanka)
	Benoit Jahyny (Brazil)
	Robert Johnson (Arizona)
	Marko Karaman (Montenegro)
	John Lattke (Venezuela)
	Inara Leal (Brazil)
	John Longino (United States)
	Andrea Lucky (United States)
	Mike Lush (United States)
	Joe Mac Gown (United States)
	Corrie Moreau (United States)
	Omid Paknia (Iran)
	M. Philippi (Uruguay)
	Stacy Philpott (United States)
	Scott Powell (United States)
	Yves Quinet (Belgium)
	Christian Rabeling (United States)
	Edith Rodriguez (Venezuela)
	Steve Shattuck (Australia)
	Jorge Souza (Brazil)
	Andy Suarez (United States)
	Georges Tohme (Lebanon)
	Walter Tschinkel (United States)
	Jordan Wagenknecht (France)
	Phil Ward (United States)
	James Wetterer (United States)
	Alex Wild (United States)
Main reference compilation consulted	Antbase.org (http://www.antweb.org/) (1)
	Global Ant Project (http://gap.entclub.org/taxonomists/index.html) (2)
	Ward et al. (3)

1. Agosti D, Johnson NF (2005) Antbase, World Wide Web electronic publication. antbase.org, version (05/2005). Accessed April 20, 2011.
2. Global Ant Project (2011) http://gap.entclub.org/taxonomists/index.html. Accessed March 15, 2011.
3. Ward PS, Bolton B, Shattuck SO (1996) A bibliography of ant systematics. *University of California Publications in Entomology* 116:1–417.
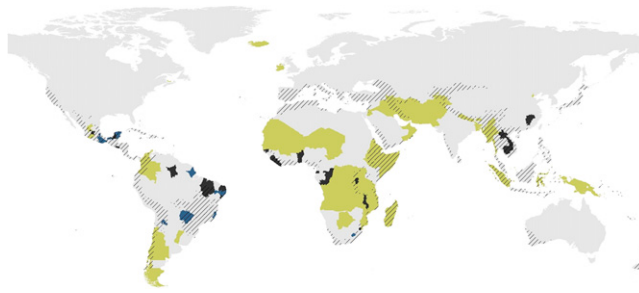
Fig. S1. Global hotspots of discovery based on the diversity of ant genera and conservation hotspots as defined by Conservation International on the base of plants and terrestrial vertebrates. Regions where a minimum of 20 new records of genera are expected in both models appear in black. Regions with at least 20 new records of genera are predicted in the interpolation model appear in blue. Regions with at least 20 new records of genera are predicted in the environmental model appear yellow-green. Conservation International hotspots are black hatched on the map. GIS data were extracted from the Biodiversity Hotspots Web site of Conservation International on October 19th, 2011 at http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/resources/Pages/maps.aspx.
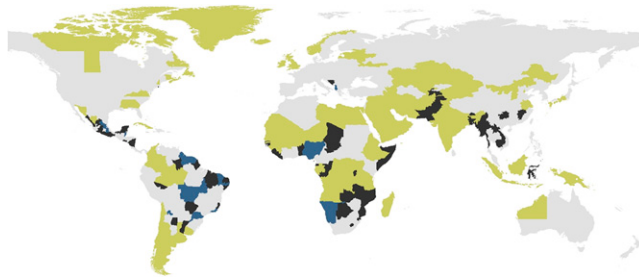

Fig. S2. Global hotspots of discovery as measured by the difference between the numbers of predicted and known ant genera. Regions where a minimum of 10 new records of genera are expected in both models appear in black. Regions with at least 10 new records of genera are predicted in the interpolation model (but not the environmental model) appear in blue. Regions with at least 10 new records of genera are predicted in the environmental model (but not the interpolation model) appear yellow-green.

Other Supporting Information Files

Table S1 (DOCX)
Table S2 (DOCX)
Table S3 (DOCX)
Table S4 (DOCX)
Dataset S1 (TXT)