

## A taxonomic study of the Brazilian turtle ants (Formicidae: Myrmicinae: *Cephalotes*)

**Date** 28<sup>th</sup> May (Fri.)

**Time** 16:00 (UTC+8)

**Venue** Zoom



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The ant genus *Cephalotes* Latreille, 1802, whose members are known as turtle-ants, is uniquely found in the New World, exclusively nesting in galleries in the tree branches. Almost all species are polymorphic, with workers responsible for the maintenance of the colony, and soldiers responsible for protecting the colony against enemies. They use their highly specialized heads as a rigid door, blocking the nest entrance, which consists of a small hole in the wood. Almost 120 species are known for *Cephalotes*, half of them occurring in Brazil, which is the focus of this work. This seminar will provide an introduction to the ecology, evolution, and taxonomy of these ants and the results of the more recent taxonomy study on the turtle ants.

**All are welcome!**



**Aline Oliveira** is a Brazilian biologist, master in entomology, with a special focus on ants. She developed projects with ecology, distribution, and taxonomy of ants. The latter became her passion and main area of expertise. She is the current curator manager of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Museum, associated with the Insect Biodiversity and Biogeography Laboratory, where she is also studying the ants of South China, supervised by Dr. Benoit Guénard.