



Comparison between rate of decrease of number of species and genera according to reduction of territory.

noted, however, that only 4 of the preceding genera (*Neivamyrmex*, *Paracryptocerus*, *Gnamptogenys* and *Strumigenys*), holding 269 species, have recently been revised and are in workable condition. The remaining genera, containing nearly one half of the Neotropical ant fauna, leave much to be desired and identification in them is often practically hopeless. This is one of the sorest spots in myrmecological taxonomy, and was brought about by the heedless proliferation of taxa without concomitant synthesis and assimilation, as practiced by the myrmecographers of the last and the first four decades of the present century.

3. The comparison between the number of genera and species obtained in the different surveys shows that the number of species declines much more rapidly than the number of genera with the decrease of territory under consideration. This fact is visually evident in the appended diagram and needs no further comment.

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