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BIOLOGICAL NOTES ON DACETINI (HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE)

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The Dacetini form a compact group of obscure ants, chiefly tropical, which never are conspicuous and are usually collected more or less accidentally with other insects. They are active on the forest floor or in the soil below and feed upon other small to minute insects such as Collembola. They may be useful in coffee and cacao plantations in feeding on young stages of harmful insects. Those nesting in rotted wood were early thought to be fungus feeders or fungus cultivators, but no accurate observations support the view that they actually cultivate fungus as does the related tribe, Attini. Hitherto unpublished biological and other data on recently published new species are presented below.

The taxonomy fortunately has been the subject of monographic study by William L. Brown, Jr. (e.g., Brown, 1948), to whom I am indebted for identification of the species below. The ants were taken by myself, and those from Africa in 1948 were collected while I was biologist to the Central African Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History which is the repository of the holotypes taken on this expedition. The species are arranged according to region, i.e., Neotropical region, Ethiopian region, and Palearctic region (Iraq), in that order.

NEOTROPICAL REGION

Strumigenys (Strumigenys) elongata Roger

Trinidad, British West Indies: Maracas Valley, elevation 900

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