

60 miles south of Watsa near Ituri River, February 27, 1948, from densely covered 60-degree slope leading to small stream.

PALEARCTIC REGION

**Trichoscapa membranifera** (Emery)  
[= **Strumigenys** (**Cephaloxys**) **simillima** Emery]

Iraq: Baghdad, December 4, 1950. Baghdad must be one of the driest places where dacetines are found and has an annual rainfall slightly in excess of 5 inches. Dr. Brown (*in litt.*) writes that the nearest record known to him is Cairo, Egypt (unpublished). The Baghdad ants were taken at the base of a brick wall in clay under a trash pile of wet weeds. That they are rare at this site is indicated by failure to find them again during the winter under similar conditions or later in the year. For most of the year conditions are probably too hot and dry for this species, and they must either be restricted to the immediate vicinity of irrigation canals and similar places or must estivate in the clay silt.

The species is tropicopolitan, and there are records from the Mediterranean, southern United States, West Indies, Hawaii, and other places, indicating their spread by commerce. Since Iraq has been at the crossroads of civilization for over 5000 years there have been many opportunities to reach here via the dhows of the Persian Gulf but little opportunity to spread during those centuries when this area has been a desert or semi-desert. At the present time the deserts on three sides of Baghdad would prevent the species from extending its range, and the Irano-Turanian highlands to the north would also appear to be a barrier.

LITERATURE CITED

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