

## 2. *Epimyrma kraussei* Emery 1915

Five colonies were found on March 25, 1982, about 2 km SE Venaco, near road no N193, in a terraced slope with sparse oak and olive trees about 600 m NN. Nests were located in the crevices of a dry wall in the shade of some large oak trees. The host species of *E. kraussei* is *Leptothorax* (*Temnothorax*) *recedens* (Nylander 1856). Two of the colonies were incipient ones with the dead or paralyzed host queen still present, one colony was containing an old *E.* queen and a young, not inseminated *E.* ♀. No *Epimyrma* ♀♀ were present, however, in laboratory culture four of the colonies later on produced up to 10 ♀♀.

*E. kraussei* is a degenerate slavemaker (BUSCHINGER & WINTER 1983), in that the few *E.* ♀♀ are still able to conduct slave-raids under laboratory conditions, however, the population data reveal that raids in the field are rare, and most colonies do not produce sufficient *E.* worker numbers for successful raiding. The reproductive biology resembles that of *E. corsica*, with sexuals mating in the mother nest, and young queens leaving for colony foundation after hibernation.

The range of *E. kraussei*, which originally was described from Sardinia, extends over a wide part of the mediterranean area, from Spain (ESPADALER & RESTREPO 1983) and North Africa (CAGNIANT 1969) to southern France, northern Italy (BARONI URBANI 1971, BUSCHINGER & WINTER 1983), and Yugoslavia (unpublished). Two other species, *E. vandeli* Santschi 1927 from southern France, and *E. foreli* Menozzi 1921 from South Italy, presumably represent but junior synonyms of *E. kraussei* (BUSCHINGER & WINTER 1982).

## 3. *Epimyrma ravouxi* (André 1896)

Three colonies were found on March 22, 1982, in an old pine forest about 1 km SW lake Marghese (Forêt de l'Osedale, road no. D368), another 7 colonies on March 27, about 8 km E of the Col de Vergio, again in a SE-exposed pine forest (Forêt de Valdo-Niello) alongside road no. D84, both localities in elevations of 1000–1100 m NN. Rocks of up to several m diameter were scattered on the forest floor, and nests were found in crevices underneath of thin flags cracked off the rock surface. The host species was *Leptothorax* (*Myrafant*) *unifasciatus* (Latreille 1798).

At least 3 of the colonies were recently founded, one was still containing a paralyzed host queen, together with the *Epimyrma* queen. The invasion of new host colonies in this species begins in late August or September, after a mating flight. The throttling of the host colony queen may continue until the following spring (BUSCHINGER 1982).

*E. ravouxi* is a truly dulotic ant. Its slave raids were described by WINTER (1979). Four of the colonies from Corsica conducted slave raids, in the laboratory, which were by no means different from those observed with material from southern Germany. The range of *E. ravouxi* is quite large, extending from the Spanish Pyrenees (ESPADALER & RESTREPO 1983, BUSCHINGER unpubl.) through southern France (Nyons/Drôme, the type locality), northern Italy and Istria/Yugoslavia (BUSCHINGER, EHRHARDT & FISCHER 1981). It is the only *Epimyrma* species to be found north of the Alps, in Switzerland, southern Germany, and Austria (GÖSSWALD 1930, „*Epimyrma goesswaldi* Menozzi“; BUSCHINGER, EHRHARDT & FISCHER 1981; Faber in litt.). Contrary to all other known *Epimyrma* species, *E. ravouxi* is not restricted to one single host species. In the western parts of its range, *L. unifasciatus* seems to represent the only host species. In southern Germany, however, the colonies sometimes contain *L. nigriceps* Mayr 1855, either alone or together with *L. unifasciatus*. In Austria (Faber, in litt.), and in Yugoslavia, colonies quite frequently have *L. affinis* Mayr 1855 as slaves.