

were not recognised at the time and were tubed together with some small *Messor* workers of similar size and colour and no nest was searched for. The much smaller native *Solenopsis latro* and *S. wolffi* were found under stones in scrubby woodland in the same general area.

*Tapinoma simrothi* was abundant locally on the south tip of Karpathos and was common on Santorini and Naxos according to collections made by Mr Adrian Norris. This ant occurs throughout the Middle East and North Africa and appears to be spreading along the Mediterranean coast of Europe in competition with the invasive *Iridomyrmex humilis* Mayr which has not yet been recorded on the Greek islands. Another *Tapinoma* species considered to be *T. festai*, has the clypeal outline of *T. ambiguum* Emery but is larger with a more square head. This was found locally on the west coasts of Zante and Kephallonia and also occurs on Rhodos. *Bothriomyrmex gibbus* which has a wide range in South Europe was found in isolated colonies in the same general area on both islands. The queen of this small Dolichoderine whose workers have a raised propodeum and a short head, starts a colony as all *Bothriomyrmex* do by securing adoption in a nest of *Tapinoma* whose queen she kills. The host species soon dies out while the *Bothriomyrmex* flourishes so that mixed nests of the two species are not often seen.

Two rather dark coloured workers of the common Middle East house and garden pest, *Paratrechina jaegerskjoeldi* were found in the roadway outside a bakery in Karpathos, a new record for the islands. *Lasius alienus* was found very locally on Karpathos and Chios and the general absence of this genus contrasts with the Balearic islands, Malta, Corsica and Sardinia where *L. alienus* and similar species abound.

*Plagiolepis* species are inconspicuous small ants living in small colonies under stones and among rocks in shady places. *Acantholepis* species by contrast are daylight active, long legged ants. They were found in some abundance along and near the coasts. They range in colour from the bright red *A. caucasica* to the dull dark *A. karawaei*. Another halophile genus, *Cataglyphis*, is represented by the large active *C. nodus*. This is common in Greece and the South Balkans but it was a surprise to find this ant on the southeast tip of Zante. *C. viaticoides* seen on Chios is a smaller species with a bright reddish head and alitrunk occurring in Turkey and the Middle East but not hitherto recorded from Greece.

*Campotonus* species were abundant, found in wooded areas and under stones in banks. The most generally common of the thirteen species encountered was *C. ionia*, a large black ant rather like *C. aethiops* but easily distinguished by the absence of genal hairs and the presence of abundant raised short hairs or raised pubescence on the legs and antennal scapes. Most of the species are nocturnal but the smaller black *C. kiesenwetteri* and *C. gestroi* are to be found