

reasoning, Longino (1988) proposed the synonymy of *T. paludis* and *T. sp.* of Kempf (1975) with *T. ferox*, and *T. manni* and *T. zeteki* with *T. atrox*.

Shortly afterwards Brandão et al. (1991) reported the first case of sympatry among two *Thaumatomyrmex* species in the same cocoa field in Ilhéus (Brazil). Longino, in a Web document of 1999, reports another case of sympatry of two Panamanian species recognising in this way, that many species co-occur locally and that size and head shape may be significant species-level characters. Nonetheless, Longino (l. c.) maintains the synonymies proposed in 1988 and adds that the current nomenclature may be not consistent.

According to all successive cataloguers (Bolton 1995; Longino 1999; Delabie et al. 2000), the genus *Thaumatomyrmex* comprises 5 species. As a matter of fact Fontenla (1995) described a sixth new species from Cuba, *T. bariay*, based on a single worker. The genus *Thaumatomyrmex* to date comprises hence 6 species.

Diniz & Brandão (1989) and Brandão et al. (1991) portrayed for the first time the predatory behaviour of *Thaumatomyrmex* on polyxenid millipedes. The peculiar, apically forked mandibles of these ants are used to strip the barbed setae of the polyxenids before eating them.

The recent opportunity to collect two specimens of *Thaumatomyrmex* with puzzling affinities in two localities during a short trip to Cuba motivated the present work.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Our search for additional Cuban *Thaumatomyrmex* in different collections permitted us to examine material from the following institutions.

**IESC.** Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática de la Academia de Ciencias de Cuba, Boyeros, La Habana, Cuba. Courtesy Dr. Nayla García.

**LACM.** Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, USA. Courtesy of Roy R. Snelling.

**MCZC.** Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Courtesy of Stefan P. Cover.

**MNHNC.** Museo Nacional de Historia Natural Cuba, La Habana, Cuba. Courtesy of Dr. Jorge Luis Fontenla Rizo. We were unable to examine another five specimens preserved in this collection as listed in the web page of the Museo Nacional. We requested them to Dr. Jorge Luis Fontenla Rizo who was unable to send us them due to problems with the labels.

**MZSP.** Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. Courtesy of Dr. Carlos Roberto Ferreira Brandão.

*Measurements and indices used in this study as defined by Kempf (1975):*

**Head Length (HL):** distance between two parallel lines drawn through the anteriormost point of the projecting frontal lobes and the posteriormost point of vertex in full face-view.

**Head Width 1 (HW1):** the maximum width of the head in front of the eyes, in full-face view.

**Head Width 2 (HW2):** the maximum width of the head behind the eyes, in full-face view.

**Eye Length (EL):** maximum length of the eye.