

*Thaumatomyrmex*'s apparent strong preference for litter or underground living, however, sharply contrasts with one of its salient morphological traits: the large, protruding eyes (see e. g. Fig. 5). One might expect that, in such cryptic surroundings, there should be little light and few objects to watch from far distance.

These considerations pose another problem: Do the four Cuban *Thaumatomyrmex* species represent a case of explosive insular speciation? The genus, in Cuba, has a density of ca. one species per 27 km<sup>2</sup>. In the remaining 20.3 million km<sup>2</sup> of the Neotropical region this density falls to roughly one species per 2.5 million km<sup>2</sup> (Kempf's 1975 classification) or to one species per 3.8 million km<sup>2</sup> (Longino's 1998 classification). These figures need no statistical treatment to convince about the difference between the Cuban and the remaining Neotropical fauna. To be reliable, however, the figures should be drawn from comparable samplings, a fact far from being demonstrated.

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