

Private Collections

The information given in this section has been taken from several different recent references in the ant taxonomy literature. It is not easy to ascertain whether the cited collections are still in private hands or have by now been deposited in official institutions. Interested readers should contact the collection holders.

Major private collections cited in the literature are those of W. Buren, A. Buschinger, F. Castaño (Colombia), R. Chew, C. A. Collingwood (Skipton, U.K.), G. Delye, J. L. M. Diniz (UNESP, São José do Rio Preto, SP, Brazil), M. DuBois (Clemson University), X. Espadaler (Bellaterra, Spain), F. Fernández C. (Colombia), A. Francoeur (Chicoutani, Canada), R. Gregg, D. Kistner (Chico, California, USA), R. Klein, Masao Kubota (Odawara City, Japan), R. Lavigne, J. Longino, J. Lynch, W. and E. MacKay (University of Texas, El Paso), T. Nuhn, S. O. Shattuck, A. Tinaut (Departamento de Biología Animal y Ecología, Universidad de Granada, Spain), J. Trager, G. J. Umphrey (University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada), P. Ward, G. and J. Wheeler, and D. Wojcik. Another fast-growing and interesting private collection in Germany is that of A. Schulz (Leichlingen).

Although quite dispersed and extremely heterogeneous by all conceivable criteria, Table 12.1 demonstrates that the number of ant collections available worldwide is impressively large when compared with other collections of

similar taxa. The wealth of biological information residing in these assemblages is by no means negligible. A special effort should therefore be made by the ant research community to improve not only the collections themselves but also—and more importantly—the quality and accessibility of the information associated with the collection specimens.

I am sure that many gaps still remain in this world list of ant collections, and I would be grateful to receive additions and corrections from readers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am deeply indebted to several colleagues who answered my requests for information regarding collections: Alan Andersen (TERC), Cesare Baroni Urbani, Brian V. Brown (LACM), the late William L. Brown Jr. (CUIC), Daniel Burckhardt (MHNG), William H. Clark (CIDA), Fabiana Cuzzo (IMLA), Gennady M. Dlussky (ZMUM), John Fellowes (KFBG), Stuart Fullerton (ABSC), Robert Jeanne, Jonathan Majer (CURT), Alfred F. Newton (FMNH), Barry O'Connor (UMMZ), Andrés Angulo Ormeso (UCCC), Alexander Radchenko (UASK), Hamish G. Robertson (SAMC), Virginia Scott (UCMC), Roy R. Snelling (LACM), Mamoru Terayama (DBUT), Gary Umphrey, Kees van Achterberg (RMNH), John van Schagen (AWAP), and Manfred Verhaagh (SMNK). Dr. Mirian D. Marques, Christiane I. Yamamoto, and an anonymous reviewer read and improved the manuscript.