

worker collected in a secondary Atlantic Forest area in Lençóis, Bahia, Brasil ($12^{\circ}33'S$ $41^{\circ}23'W$) (Castilho *et al.* in press). Both specimens were obtained from leaf litter samples using Winklers extractors.

Distribution

Until now, *B. scambognathus* is known only from the Brazilian largest biomes (Amazon Forest, Cerrado, and Atlantic Forest) and for a single locality in south Venezuela, near the border with Brazil (see map in Fig. 4). Its apparently discontinuous distribution and scattered records may reflect inappropriate col-

lecting techniques due to our ignorance of the species biology.

Biology

B. scambognathus is one of the most obscure taxa of neotropical ants and virtually nothing is known about its biology. Very few specimens are represented in the world's ant collections, most of them are alate gynes and males, captured in widely spaced localities.

Brandão collected the first dealate *B. scambognathus* gyne in Uruaçu, Goiás state, in 1995, and attempted to maintain it in artificial conditions in order



FIGURE 4. Distribution map of *Basiceros scambognathus*.