

Figs. 9–10, 12 Lateral view of head and metasoma of *Acromyrmex ameliae* male (9), *A. ameliae* queen (10), *A. ameliae* worker (metasoma only) (12). The bars correspond to a scale of 0.5 mm in figures 9–10 and 0.25 mm in figure 12.

Fig. 14 Dorsal view of gaster of *Acromyrmex ameliae* worker. The bar corresponds to a scale of 0.25 mm.

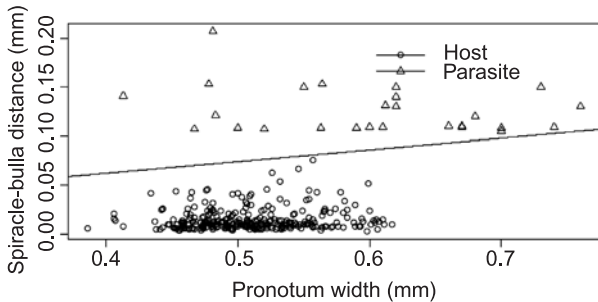
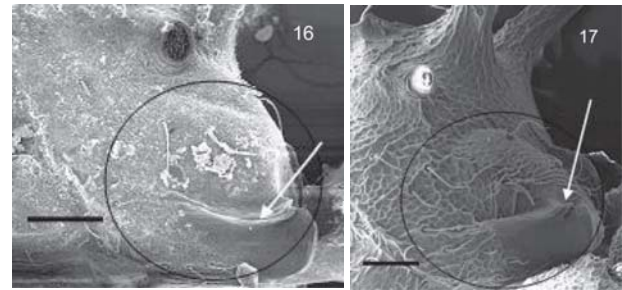


Fig. 15 The distance between the spiracle and the bulla as a function of the pronotum width for minor workers of *Acromyrmex subterraneus subterraneus* and *Acromyrmex ameliae* ($F_{1,298} = 551.36$, $P < 0.001$).

Paratypes 20 queens, 20 males and 18 workers. Labeled ‘Brazil: Paraopeba MG/ 20 April 2004/ I. M. F. Soares (MZUSP).

Discussion

Acromyrmex ameliae is a social parasite with much smaller reproductives (females and males) than those of its hosts (Table 1). Morphometrically, the *A. ameliae* queen is not a simple miniature of its hosts’ queens, like *Myrmica microrubra* and its host *Myrmica rubra* (Steiner *et al.*, 2005). Here, we can distinguish the new species from the



Figs. 16–17 Scanning electron micrograph of the mesosoma of *Acromyrmex subterraneus subterraneus* (16) and *A. ameliae* (17), showing the large pronounced vault (bulla) which covers the storage chamber. Arrows point to the slit-shaped opening (meatus). The bulla in host worker is closer to the spiracle than in parasite workers. The bars correspond to a scale of 100 μ m.

other of the group with propodeal spines: they are straight and laterally compressed unlike *subterraneus* subspecies where they are slight to strongly curved and conical. *Acromyrmex ameliae* differs from *A. insinator* not only by its size (compare Tables 1 and 2) and color (brown dark against yellowish-orange) but as well it does not present a single strong median ruga extending from the central ocellus to the level of the posterior borders of lateral ocelli, like *A. insinator*. On the contrary, around its central ocellus, the cuticle is wholly rugous without a distinct median ruga. In *A. insinator* the anteroventral edge of the postpetiole is broadly and evenly concave, without a broad median anteroventral extension. The anteroventral portion