Habitat. This species seems to be an exclusively canopy-dwelling ant. The Peruvian specimens were collected on a *Sloanea* sp. (Elaeocarpaceae) tree.

Worker variation. Among the specimens studied, some morphological variation has been documented, including: (i) All castes with sides of head lacking a broad gap between bases of mandibles and margins of head capsule when mandibles are fully closed, with the exception of the two minor workers studied, in which case there is a narrow gap. (ii) Erect hairs on the ocular crest are present in all workers examined. However, the number of hairs varies among specimens. We suspect that these hairs are fragile and can be easily lost, which may account for the variation observed between specimens. This seems also to apply to the standing hairs on the median promesonotum and behind the posterior tubercles of the promesonotum. (iii) Humeral tubercles are strongly reduced, sometimes forming a carina or absent, especially in smaller workers. (iv) The propodeal spines of all of the Peruvian specimens examined converging at the tips (U-shaped, when seen in fronto-dorsal view), whereas in most of the specimens from Brazil the propodeal spines are diverging, more like the state in *D. armigerum*. (v) Petiolar spines short, almost absent in the smaller castes. The petiolar spines are more developed in the specimens from Brazil.

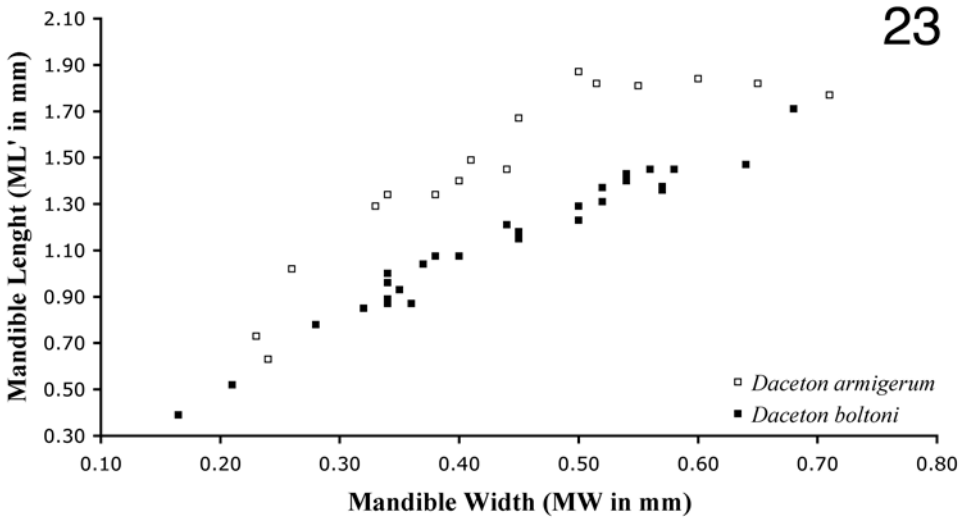

FIGURE 23. Relationship between ML' (mandible length in full-face view) and MW (mandible width) between *Daceton armigerum* and *Daceton boltoni*.

Key to the species of *Daceton*.

Pronotal humeral spines bifurcate, the anterior tip larger than the posterior one (fig. 3). First gastral tergite without standing hairs (sometimes with very short, appressed hairs) (figs. 3, 7, 17–19). Mesonotum and metanotum divided by a strongly impressed metanotal groove (fig. 3). Inner (masticatory) margin of mandibles with a row of short thick setae (fig. 5) ..... *Daceton armigerum*.

-. Pronotal humeral spines long and simple (figs. 4, 10, 14). First gastral tergite with suberect to subdecumbent hairs (figs. 4, 8, 11–12, 14–15, 20–22). Mesonotum and metanotum divided by a weakly impressed metanotal groove (figs. 4, 10, 14). Inner (masticatory) margin of mandibles lacking a row of short thick setae (fig. 6) ..... *Daceton boltoni*.