cefálico y por el reducido tamaño de las obreras. Modificaciones a las claves de Bolton (2000) para identificar las species de *Pyramica* y de *Strumigenys* son presentadas para incluir las nuevas especies.

Key words.—Dacetini, Hymenoptera, leaf-litter sampling, Neotropics, new species, *Pyramica*, *Strumigenys*, taxonomy

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Species of ants in the tribe Dacetini (Formicidae: Myrmicinae) vary greatly in size, morphology, and behavior (Hölldobler and Wilson 1990). They inhabit rotten wood, leaf litter, soil, and trees (Hölldobler and Wilson 1990; Bolton 1998) and feed on a diverse variety of small arthropods (Wilson 1953; Dejean 1985a; Bolton 1998). It has been hypothesized that the bizarre mandibular morphology of dacetines, including the different mandibular modes of action, and the conspicuous spongiform tissue located mostly on the waist segments are adaptations for attracting and capturing springtails (Collembola) on which most members of the tribe presumably feed (Brown and Wilson 1959; Dejean 1985a, b, 1987; Dietz and Brandão 1993; Gronenberg 1996; Kantarovich et al. 2006; Masuko 1984, 2009).

Guyana occupies a central position within the Guiana Shield, a large (~1,000,000 km^2), ancient (Proterozoic, ~2.5 billion years ago) geological area that was once attached to West Africa (Gibbs and Baron 1993) and that currently extends between the Amazon and the Orinoco River Basins. Unlike most tropical countries, ~70% of Guyana's land, including large tracts of primary rainforest, remains intact or is only marginally affected by human disturbance (Funk and Richardson 2002). Due to the creation of new roads, the influx of new inhabitants (especially from Brazil), and increased mining and timber-harvesting activity, this situation is rapidly changing. It is therefore imperative to gather the biological information necessary for identifying areas of conservation concern.

The ant fauna of Guyana remains largely unknown. Wheeler (1916, 1918) and LaPolla et al. (2007) have produced the only publications specifically addressing this fauna. Weber (1946) studied the fungus-growing ants (Attini) from Guyana; Kempf (1972) and Fernandez and Sendoya (2004), based primarily on literature reports, recorded ~350 described ant species from Guyana. LaPolla et al.'s (2007) study recorded 230 ant species (44 genera) collected from eight localities using leaf-litter mini-Winkler sampling. These figures clearly underestimate the actual number of species present in the country; for example, La Selva, a ~1500 ha Biological Reserve in Costa Rica, possesses at least 437 ant species (Longino et al. 2002). Bolton (2000) and Fernandez and Sendoya (2004) reported three dacetine genera and 10 species for Guyana. As a result of recent leaf-litter surveys in Guyana (Appendix 1), we increase the number of Guyana's dacetine ant species to 42, describe two new species in the genus *Pyramica* Roger and three new species in the genus *Strumigenys* F. Smith, and report for the first time species of *Acanthognathus* Mayr in Guyana (Appendix 2). Although Bolton's generic level classification of dacetines has recently been questioned (Baroni-Urbani and de Andrade 2007), we choose to follow it here for the sake of taxonomic stability in the face of indecisive phylogenetic data.

Despite Bolton's (2000) recent monograph of the dacetines, it is clear that many species remain to be discovered and described in this species-rich tribe. Fortunately, Bolton's study provides the context for rapidly identifying and describing new species as they are discovered (Deyrup 2006; Sosa-Calvo et al. 2006; Longino 2006; Azorsa & Sosa-Calvo 2008, Bolton et al.