FIGURE 1. Images of a *T. weitzeckeri* group species (*Tetramorium muralti* Forel) illustrating the used measurements. A. body in lateral view with measuring lines for EL, PPH, PTH, and WL. B. body in dorsal view with measuring lines for PPL, PPW, PTL, PTW, and PW. C. head in full-face view with measuring lines for HL, HW, and SL. D. dorsocaudad view of the mesosoma with measuring line for PSL and an orthogonal (thinner) helping line going to the median point where the mesosomal dorsum meets the declivity.

Note that the petiole and postpetiole were measured differently. Considering the petiole, only the petiolar node was measured excluding the peduncle, since the node proved to be of high diagnostic value whereas measurements of the whole petiole, peduncle plus node, masked these important differences between species. This is mainly due to the characteristic antero-posterior impression of the node found in all species of the group, though to different degrees. In contrast, we measured the whole postpetiole because it was rounded in most species and only a few showed a distinct antero-posterior impression. As a consequence some information was lost in the few species of the *T. weitzeckeri* complex with a strongly squamiform postpetiole. However, taking all species into account, the postpetiole measurements as defined allowed a better comparison of most species.

Ocular index (OI): EL / HW * 100
Cephalic index(CI): HW / HL * 100
Scape index (SI): SL / HW * 100
Propodeal spine index (PSLI): PSL / HL * 100
Petiolar node index (PeNI): PTW / PW * 100
Lateral petiole index (LPeI): PTL / PTH * 100
Dorsal petiole index (DPeI): PTW / PTL * 100
Postpetiolar node index (PpNI): PTW / PW * 100
Lateral postpetiole index (LPpI): PPL / PPH * 100
Dorsal postpetiole index (DPpI): PPW / PPL * 100
Postpetiole index (PPI): PPW / PTW * 100

Type material of species described herein can be uniquely identified with specimen-level codes (e.g. CASENT0096829 or ZFMK_HYM_2009_6195) affixed to each pin. Digital colour images were produced with a QImaging Micropublisher 5.0 RTV camera on a LEICA Z6 APO stereo-microscope in combination with Syncroscopy Auto-Montage software (version 5.03). The combined images were processed for publication with Adobe Photoshop CS2 and ImageJ. If images were not produced by the authors themselves (the images of *Tetramorium guineense* Bernard , *Tetramorium humbloti* Forel, and *Tetramorium pinnipilum* Bolton were kindly provided by Dr. Brian Fisher, California Academy of Sciences) then photographer and source data is provided in the respective image caption. All images presented herein are available online and can be seen on Antweb (Fisher 2002).

Important diagnostic characters

In order to better understand the taxonomic system on which this revision is based it seems appropriate to discuss several morphological characters of high diagnostic value in detail.

One very significant character of high diagnostic value is the sculpturation on cephalic and mesosomal dorsum. There is a high interspecific variability observable from completely unsculptured and shiny (e. g. Figs. 59, 60, 65, 68, 69) to fully packed with more or less widely spaced longitudinal rugae (e. g. Figs. 29, 30, 38, 39) . Opposed to this, intraspecific variation seems to be relatively negligible in almost all species. The