

a good number of localities over its wide distribution range are known, but never from more than 4 to 6 specimens per locality. Compared to other similarly widely distributed members of the species complex as *T. muralti* or *T. susannae* it appears as if *T. occidentale* lives a more cryptic lifestyle, perhaps in the lower vegetation. This would explain its rarity in litter samples, but it is also possible that it is simply a rare species compared to most other *T. muralti* complex members.

Earlier records of this species should be treated with caution since some specimens previously listed as *T. occidentale* (Bolton 1980, Hita Garcia *et al.* 2009) proved to be either *T. akengense* or *T. kakamega*. During his revision of the genus Bolton (1980) was not satisfied with the species concept of *T. occidentale* and noted that it showed a high grade of intraspecific variation and he was convinced that more than one "good" species was involved. At present, after examination of all available material, we strongly agree with Bolton (1980). Consequently, *T. kakamega* has now been split from *T. occidentale* while *T. akengense* has been revived from synonymy. These actions have been undertaken to improve and facilitate the taxonomy of *T. occidentale* and allied species. However, the situation is far from being satisfactory since the examined material is still too scarce for a final and strongly evident conclusion. Molecular analyses could be a good additional tool in order to improve the species status and boundaries of *T. occidentale* and allies. Even after its actual redefinition *T. occidentale* remains a species with an extraordinary intraspecific variability for the *T. weitzackeri* species group. Generally, size variation is remarkable as can be seen in the morphometric range provided above, though it is not related to any biogeographic pattern. In addition, there is a high variation observable in length and shape of the propodeal spines that seems to be related to body size. The spine length becomes shorter and the spine shape grows more triangular and less spinose with decreasing body size. Although this pattern was expected for most of the *T. weitzackeri* group species, it could only be observed in *T. occidentale*. To conclude it has to be pointed out that examination of this observed variation did not reveal any argument to divide the material presented here as *T. occidentale*. How to distinguish *T. occidentale* from *T. akengense* and *T. kakamega* can be seen in the respective species descriptions in detail. Nonetheless, all three species share many characters and can be well distinguished from the rest of the species complex by their possession of an impressed anterior clypeal margin.

Material examined

CAMEROON: Mt. above Buea, 4200ft., 19.V.1949, leg. B. Malkin; no location, 1895, leg. Conradt; Pan Pan, 2.XII.1989, leg. A. Dejean; Yaounde, leg. G. Terron; no location; **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:** Sangha-Mbaéré, P.N. Dzanga-Ndoki, 38.6 km 173° S Lidjombo, 03° 21.60' N, 16° 3.20' E, 350m, 23.V.2001, leg. S. Van Noort; Sangha-Mbaéré, Rés. Dzanga-Sangha, 12.7 km 326° NW Bayanga, 03° 00' N, 16° 12' E, 420m, 10.-17.V.2001, leg. B.L. Fisher; **GABON:** La Makande, Forêt de Abeilles, I.-II.1999, leg. S. Lewis; Ogooue-Maritime, Res. Moukalaba-Dougoua, 12.2 km 305° NW Doussala, 02° 17.0' S, 10° 29.8' E, 110m, 24.II.2000, leg. B.L. Fisher; **GHANA:** Mampong, 10.VIII.1970, leg. D. Leston; Mt. Atewa, 1.XII.1968, leg. B. Bolton; Mt. Atewa, 2.VIII.1970, leg. B. Bolton; Pankese, 24.IX.1968, leg. C.A. Collingwood; Southern Scarp Forest Reserve, X.1992, leg. R. Belshaw; Tafo, 9.III.1966, leg. D. Louis; Tafo, 30.V.1970, leg. B. Bolton; **TOGO:** Palimé Forest, 20.-25.IV.1974, leg. Vit; **IVORY COAST:** Banco Forest, nr. Abidjan, 2.I.1963, leg. W.L. Brown.

Tetramorium susannae Hita Garcia, Fischer & Peters sp. n.

(Figures 4B, 6B, 7B, 67, 68, 69)

Holotype worker, GHANA, Esunkawkaw Forest Reserve, primary forest, ex leaf litter, 27.X.1992, leg. R. Belshaw (BMNH: ZFMK_HYM_2009_6093). Paratypes, 8 workers with same data as holotype (CASC: 2 workers ZFMK_HYM_2009_6094; MHNG: 1 worker ZFMK_HYM_2009_6194; NMK: 1 worker ZFMK_HYM_2009_6092; ZFMK: 4 workers ZFMK_HYM_2009_6090, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6091, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6195, ZFMK_HYM_2009_6230).