Myopopone castanea (13), *Oecophylla smaragdina subnitida* (13), *Pachycondyla stigma* (13), *Philidris myrmecodiae* (13). One hundred seven of the species and morphospecies included in Appendix 3 are only reported from single islands.

Discussion

In total, our research suggests that the Solomon Islands support at least 237 unique ant species and subspecies. The poor sampling of many islands–some of which are quite large–and the unexamined material at the ANIC suggests that the true number is likely much greater. For example, our eight days of intensive hand collection and Winkler extractions on Makira added 67 new species records to the island (including all morphospecies) and 28 new records to the archipelago. Prior to the survey, Makira Island's 75 species records were the second highest of the entire archipelago. Choiseul Island by comparison is approximately equal in area to Makira and closer to New Guinea, but the ant fauna of the island is virtually unknown with only eleven species recorded in the literature. There are approximately as many species known from the islands of Santa Isabel and Malaita as there are from Rennell, despite the substantially larger area of the former islands and their closer proximity to other large islands within the archipelago. The difference is that although no ant specialists have thoroughly sampled Rennell, general entomologists have collected there and the ant specimens of those surveys were the subject of several faunistic reviews (Taylor 1976; Wilson 1962). Besides Makira and Rennell Islands, the only island that has been moderately sampled–thanks to the works of Mann and Greenslade–is Guadalcanal.

Compared to Fijian islands of similar size, known species richness is generally much lower for individual islands within the Solomons, despite the fact that Fiji is much more isolated in the Pacific (Figure 2). This is likely due to relative sampling intensity of the two areas. Fiji has recently received intensive sampling efforts (Sarnat and Economo 2012), while richness differences among the Solomon Islands are still driven in large part by which islands were visited by W.M. Mann in 1916. For example, the 38 recorded species reported from the small island of Ugi (42 km^2), where Mann resided and collected for several weeks, is a richness comparable with a similar-sized Fijian island. Several large islands not visited by Mann have almost no records (e.g. Choiseul 2,966 km^2, 11 spp.; Kolombangara 704 km^2, 17 spp.). Our modest survey of Makira, where we spent approximately one week of collecting time, increased known richness from 75 to 142 species. There is no doubt that such modest collecting efforts elsewhere in the archipelago would yield similar increases.

The species list compiled from our research suggests several interesting taxonomic patterns. For example, species richness across the 51 native ant genera of the Solomons appears uneven. The 30 *Polyrhachis* species represent 14% of the total native species. The nine most diverse genera (*Polyrhachis*, *Pheidole*, *Camponotus*, *Tetramorium*, *Vollenhovia*, *Pachycondyla*, *Strumigenys*, *Crematogaster*, and *Gnamptogenys*) collectively contain over half of the total native species, while fifteen genera are represented by a single native species.