

illumination and the specimen, at a distance of about 4 cm from the latter. The consequent reduction of glare renders the details of sculpture more visible, and permits greater discrimination between different degrees of reflectance of the integument. The terms opaque, subopaque, sublucid, and lucid are used to make distinctions along this continuum of reflectance, opaque indicating a lack of reflectance, on the one hand, and lucid referring to a strongly shining integument, on the other hand, *under the conditions of soft lighting described above*.

Scanning electron micrographs were taken with an ETEC Autoscan, using gold-palladium coated specimens.

The term *stat. nov.* is used for a change in status of a valid name (in all instances here: elevation from infraspecific to specific status), while *stat. reval.* refers to the revalidation of a name previously considered invalid (in all instances here: resurrection of a former synonym). The distinction between these two kinds of name changes was not made in Ward (1985).

In the lists of material examined, records are arranged alphabetically by country and by principal administrative region within larger countries. The abbreviations for Brazilian states follow Kempf (1972), with the following additions: MS = Mato Grosso do Sul; RR = Roraima.

The abbreviation "c.u." signifies collector unknown.

#### SYNOPSIS OF MAJOR SPECIES GROUPS IN *PSEUDOMYRMEX*

Among ants whose workers possess a distinct postpetiole and well-developed sting, those of *Pseudomyrmex* are recognized by their elongate compound eyes (OI 0.48–0.66, REL 0.36–0.68), closely set frontal carinae (FCI 0.01–0.13), and short scapes (SI 0.40–0.52). The median lobes of the antennal sclerites are also closely adjacent (ASI 0.41–0.73) and visible in a full-face view of the head. The antennae are 12-segmented. The mandibles are relatively small, with well differentiated basal and masticatory margins bearing 2–3 and 5–10 teeth, respectively.

Within the genus *Pseudomyrmex* I recognize currently nine major species groups, containing about 85% of the described taxa. The most salient worker characteristics of these groups are summarized in Table 1.

The outline of species groups is tentative, details of which undoubtedly will undergo refinement. The *pallens* group, in particular, appears to be rather heterogeneous and is probably paraphyletic. Additional undescribed species are in most of these groups; and there is a residue of taxonomically isolated species, and taxa of uncertain identity (*incertae sedis*). Nevertheless Table 1 should permit the assignment of most worker-based material of *Pseudomyrmex* to a species group.

The valid described taxa in each group are given below. All names are implicitly listed as binomina (since I expect all infraspecific names eventually either to enter synonymy or be raised to species), and the nomenclatural changes of this paper have been incorporated.