

ANTS OF THE GENUS *PSEUDOMYRMEX* (HYMENOPTERA:  
FORMICIDAE) FROM DOMINICAN AMBER, WITH A  
SYNOPSIS OF THE EXTANT ANTILLEAN SPECIES

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INTRODUCTION

The Dominican amber ant fauna is becoming increasingly well known as a result of the recent studies by Baroni Urbani (1980a-d; Baroni Urbani & Wilson, 1987) and Wilson (1985a-e, 1986, 1988). These investigations reveal a fauna, of probable Oligocene/early Miocene age (Baroni Urbani & Saunders, 1982; Krishna & Grimaldi, 1991; Lambert *et al.*, 1985), containing a diverse array of genera, of which the great majority are extant in the Neotropical region although some have become extinct on Hispaniola. Most of the ant genera are known from only one or two fossil species in Dominican amber. In this paper I report on a genus of arboreal ants, *Pseudomyrmex*, which has a far richer representation of species in Dominican amber than other genera examined to date. *Pseudomyrmex* is also an important component of contemporary Neotropical ant communities, so that a detailed comparison of fossil and extant taxa can be attempted. This allows a finer focus on biogeographical changes in the ant fauna, heretofore analyzed largely at the genus level.

I take pleasure in dedicating this paper to William L. Brown, Jr., in appreciation of his generous help on many occasions and the inspiration provided by his benchmark contributions to ant systematics.

METHODS

The raw material for this study is a series of 30 specimens (28 workers, 1 queen, 1 male) of *Pseudomyrmex*, from 29 pieces of