10(b) Small species (HW 0.53, FL 0.47) with head less dorsoventrally compressed (LCI 0.55); standing pilosity less conspicuous on mesosoma dorsum (Figure 16).....*prioris*

II. The Contemporary *Pseudomyrmex* Fauna of the Antilles

Of the 33 extant species of *Pseudomyrmex* found in the West Indies, 20 are confined, within this region, to Trinidad or adjacent islands of the Lesser Antilles (Table 1). There are no endemics among these; all are widespread South American species, some of which also occur in Central America. Only five of these 20 species have dispersed northward beyond Trinidad. Four species of *Pseudomyrmex* are present in both the Greater and Lesser Antilles. All of these are found throughout the Neotropics. This leaves nine species whose West Indian distributions encompass only the Greater Antilles (see upper third of Table 1). This group comprises three endemics (two from Cuba, one from Hispaniola), four species whose distributions are primarily northern Neotropical, one primarily South American species, and one pan-Neotropical species or species complex.

This pattern of distributions among the contemporary *Pseudomyrmex* of the West Indies suggests a predominantly youthful, dispersive fauna, a description which may apply to most West Indian ant genera (Wilson, 1988). This is also supported by a consideration of taxonomic relationships. Within the genus *Pseudomyrmex* as a whole I recognize nine major species groups (Ward, 1989) which contain about 85% of the estimated 150–200 species; a miscellaneous selection of taxonomically isolated species (*incertae sedis*) makes up the remaining 15%. In conformity with the pattern seen among mainland species most of the present-day West Indian species (27 out of 33) fall into the major species groups. Even four of the six taxonomically isolated species are widespread on the mainland, although they are not part of species-rich clades. Thus one does not get the impression that the West Indies are a haven for relicts in the genus *Pseudomyrmex*. One exception is provided by the endemic Hispaniolan species, *P. haytianus*. This species is not a member of any of the major species groups (Kempf's (1961) placement of it in the *P. pallens* group is not supported by a consideration of fronto-clypeal structure, palp formula, or male