

genitalia). *P. haytianus* is also one of the few extant species of *Pseudomyrmex* which shows any obvious affinities with the Dominican amber fauna (see below).

The other two Antillean endemics are confined to Cuba. *P. pazosi* (Santschi) is a member of the *P. pallidus* group and a close relative of the pan-Neotropical species, *P. simplex*. The identity of *P. opacior* (Forel) is unclear: the type is lost and no additional material is known. From the original description I would guess that it might represent a species similar to *P. viduus* (F. Smith) but this remains speculation until *P. opacior* is rediscovered.

#### DISCUSSION

##### 1) Relationships of the Dominican amber *Pseudomyrmex* to extant taxa

All of the Dominican amber pseudomyrmecines which I have examined possess the characteristic features of the genus *Pseudomyrmex* (for diagnosis see Ward, 1990). As such they are clearly referable to this genus rather than one of the other two pseudomyrmecine genera, known from Amazonia and the Old World tropics, respectively. However none of the eleven fossil species of *Pseudomyrmex* fits comfortably within any of the species groups to which most extant congeners belong. (In contrast the specimen from Cotui copal corresponds to a modern species in the *P. pallidus* group.) Some of the species (e.g. those of the *P. nexilis* complex) possess a mixture of traits, characteristic of two or more species groups; others exhibit some but not all of the features of a particular group (e.g. *P. macrops* in relation to the *P. sericeus* group); still others show a combination of traits not seen in present-day taxa. Thus the Dominican amber offers a tantalizing glimpse of an earlier *Pseudomyrmex* radiation now largely eclipsed by modern forms.

One of the fossil species, *P. baros*, appears to be related to the endemic Hispaniolan species, *P. haytianus*, on the basis of several shared similarities (see above under *P. baros*) of which at least some are likely to be derived (e.g. clypeal structure, mesosomal shape). *P. haytianus*, in turn, bears some resemblance in worker morphology and male genitalia to two undescribed species of *Pseudomyrmex* known from mostly upland sites in Mexico and