

4. *Wasmannia auropunctata* (Roger)

*Tetramorium? auropunctatum* Roger, Berl. Ent. Zeitschr. 7, 1863, p. 182 ♀ ♀ ♂.

*Tetramorium auropunctatum* Forel, Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sc. Nat. (2) 20, 1884, p. 375 ♀; Mayr, Verh. zool. bot. Ges. Wien, 37, 1887, p. 623; Dalla Torre, Catalog. Hymen. 7, 1893, p. 130.

*Ochetomyrmex auropunctatus* Forel, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 30, 1886, C. R. p. XLIX.

*Tetramorium (Xiphomyrmex) auropunctatum* Forel, Mitth. Schweiz. Ent. Ges. 7, 1887, p. 385.

*Wasmannia auropunctata* Forel, Trans. Ent. Soc. London, 1893, p. 383 ♀ ♀ ♂.

Seven dealated females and numerous workers taken by Dr. Williams in November, 1905, and seven workers taken by the "Albatross" in 1899 (U. S. Nat. Mus.). The females are considerably darker than West Indian specimens but of about the same color as Brazilian and Colombian specimens in my collection. This is the ant to which Snodgrass and Heller refer (*supra* p. 301) under the old name *Tetramorium auropunctatum* as occurring in great numbers on the leaves on Cocos Island and as making "traveling on the island exceedingly disagreeable." It is not the bite, however, but the sting which is so irritating. There is also a note on Dr. Williams' label to the effect that his specimens were found on rocks and vines and had a "fiery sting." This ant is well known in Porto Rico under the name of "albayarde". Mr. R. H. Van Zwahlenberg wrote me from Mayaguez: "In regard to *Wasmannia auropunctata* Roger I would say that as a rule this species is not pugnacious even when handled under ordinary collecting circumstances. It has a burning sting, however, though not so severe as that of *Solenopsis geminata*. The ferocity of the "albayarde" is proverbial among the natives; when present during the coffee picking it gets under the workers' clothes and then gives a good account of itself." This difference in behavior is easily explained. When one opens the populous nests under stones or logs the minute workers are unable to penetrate the thick skin of one's hands with their stings, but can easily thrust them into the thinner skin of the covered parts of the body.