N. agilis. Propodeum more flattened in side view, the basal and posterior faces merging as a single smoothly convex curve; pilosity denser.

N. californicus. Petiolar node more flattened in side view; body pilosity denser.

N. emersoni. Basal and posterior faces of propodeum meeting at only slightly more than right angle; pilosity denser.

N. fallax. Antennal scapes thicker and shorter relative to head capsule; subpetiolar process slightly thicker and pointing straight down (instead of forward as in *ectopus*).

N. manni. Occipital border flat; pilosity denser.

N. melanocephalus. Occipital border distinctly less concave; pilosity denser.

Of these 6 species, no fewer than 5 have ranges predominantly in Mexico and the southern United States, the northern portion of the range of *Neivamyrmex*. Only one (*emersoni*) is limited to the southern part of the total generic range, in this case South America and Trinidad. Yet only 21 of the 61 *Neivamyrmex* species occur in the northern portion; the remaining are so far as known limited to South and Central America. Put another way, *ectopus* closely approaches about 20% of the known northern species but only about 2.5% of the southern species.

Discussion

The exact age of the Dominican amber is unknown, but most writers agree that it is either late Oligocene or early Miocene. The material originates from various mines in two principal areas: in the north of the Dominican Republic between Santiago and Puerto Plata, and in the east between Santo Domingo and the Bahia de Samaná. The age of the many deposits in which insects occur no doubt varies. Foraminiferal fossils associated with amber from mines near Palo Alto are characteristic of the lower Miocene (Baroni-Urbani and Saunders, 1982). I would guess a relative youth for most of the ant fossils I have seen, because the great majority belong to modern genera.

Regardless of its exact age, the discovery of a *Neivamyrmex* in Dominican amber has considerable significance for the interpreta-