

unknown mines in the Dominican Republic, but a large minority originated from the following localities, including almost all from which I have seen ants of any kind: Carlos Diaz, near Tamboril; Cotui; La Bucara; La Cumbre; La Toca; Las Bocas del Licey; Llaroa (Yaroa); Los Cacaos; Marias; Palo Quemado; Bayaguana. The specimens share the key characters of the holotype nest series. They are quite variable in size (Head Width 0.42–1.06 mm overall), but, as documented in Fig. 8, relatively little variation occurs within single amber pieces. Moreover, the size variation in one especially populous piece I have examined appears to be unimodal with little or no skewing. Hence *A. azteca* must be regarded, at least tentatively, as a monomorphic species.

*Paratype males.* A total of 17 individuals in 8 pieces (3 with associated workers). The essential characteristics, placing the species still more firmly within the *alfari* group and in particular close to *fiebrigi*, are illustrated in Fig. 6. The alitrunk length of the male depicted, from the holotype nest series, is 1.04 mm. The Head Width (including eyes) of another male measured from Palo Quemado is 0.72 mm.

*Paratype queens.* The elongate head shape of 2 alate queens found in separate amber pieces (Dominican Republic, no further locality) might seem to associate them logically with *A. eumeces*, the second, rarer *Azteca* species occurring in the Dominican amber. Nevertheless, at least some of the contemporary *alfari* group species, in particular *coeruleipennis*, *fasciata*, and *fiebrigi*, have workers with ordinary head shapes and queens with elongated heads. Moreover, the Dominican amber queens closely resemble those of *fiebrigi*.

*General remarks.* *Azteca alpha* is by far the most abundant ant species and hence probably the most abundant insect species in the Dominican amber. It occurs in 29% (171 of 592) of the ant-bearing amber pieces I have studied closely to date. Since I passed a large percentage of the pieces back to dealers prior to the revisionary work because they contained *A. alpha* and thus were considered of less interest, the actual representation of the species was much higher, very likely 50% or more.

In addition, *A. alpha* workers have been found in the same pieces as many of the other Dominican amber genera: *Pseudomyrmex*, *Crematogaster* (*Orthocrema*), *Oligomyrmex*, *Pheidole*, *Monacis*, *Hypoclinea*, and *Camponotus*. This circumstance, plus the occur-