

During my own study I encountered a single worker in the Museum of Comparative Zoology collection that fits the *L. neotropicus* habitus closely. Although this specimen has the front part of the head missing, there is little distortion in the remainder of the head and body. An apparent acidopore can be seen, placing the species in the Formicinae rather than in the Dolichoderinae. And indeed, the specimen is closely similar to *Camponotus branneri* of Brazil, sharing the same distinctive elongated body form, mesothoracic constriction, petiole, tapered neck, and bulging eyes located toward the rear of the head. *C. branneri* is also similar to *C. santosi* of Cuba and *C. sexguttatus* of Central America and the West Indies.

The status of *neotropicus* will not be settled definitively until additional and better preserved *neotropicus* workers are available. In the meantime, the evidence as well as biogeographic probabilities make it prudent to place the fossil species provisionally in *Camponotus* and to remove the genus *Leptomyrmex* from the Dominican amber faunal list.

#### DISCUSSION

There has been a remarkable retreat of the Dolichoderinae from the West Indies since Dominican amber times, in other words, since the late Oligocene or early Miocene. Four genera (*Azteca*, *Dolichoderus*, *Hypoclinea*, *Monacis*) have disappeared entirely from the Greater Antilles. Only two (*Iridomyrmex*, *Tapinoma*) have persisted to the present, while a single genus, *Conomyrma*, has invaded more recently. The dominant arboreal ants are no longer *Azteca*; according to W. L. Brown (personal communication), who has collected intensively over much of the Dominican Republic, the more abundant genera include *Pseudomyrmex*, *Crematogaster*, *Paracryptocerus*, and *Camponotus*. In this important respect the West Indian fauna mirrors the general decline of the Dolichoderinae in North and South America, Europe, and Asia, possibly in conjunction with the advance of *Crematogaster* as a competitor of *Iridomyrmex* (Brown, 1973).

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