

This is a common S. European ant which could be transported very easily in soil protecting the roots of plants. Nevertheless it seems to be very uncommon in the Azores judging by the small number of individuals which have been captured. Santschi noted from Pico de Ferro on São Miguel a variety rather darker and more coarsely sculptured than the typical form. The species nests in dead wood and under bark or on the ground beneath moss and stones.

***Tetramorium caespitum* (Linnaeus)**

Tetramorium caespitum (Linnaeus 1758), Wheeler 1908 [Mi], 1927 [Azores], Santschi 1933 [Mi], Donisthorpe 1936 [Mi], Wellenius 1949 [Fa, G, Mi], Carthy 1955a [Fa, P].

Faial: Costa da Náu, 3 km. NW of Capelo, 4.IV.57, loc. 88; Porto da Boca da Ribeira, 1 km. E of Ribeirinha, 1.IV.57, loc. 74; Faial, 31.IV.57.

Pico: 1 km. S of Areia Larga, 11.IV.57, loc. 107.

São Miguel: Ribeira da Praia, 3 km. W of Vila Franca do Campo, 13.III.57, loc. 27; Vila Franca do Campo, 28.II.57, loc. 2; Relva, tanque da Rocha Quebrada, 15.III.57, loc. 31.

T. caespitum is a species distributed over the whole of Europe and a large part of Asia. Its occurrence in North Africa seems likely to be due to accidental introduction. Wheeler refers to two varieties on São Miguel near Ponta Delgada, one smaller and redder, the other larger and darker. Such variation can be detected in most nest samples of this species and apparently has no geographical significance. I have seen this species from São Jorge, collected in 1965 during the Chelsea College Azores Expedition.

***Tetramorium guineense* (Fabricius)**

Tetramorium guineense (Fabricius 1793), Santschi 1933 [Mi], Wellenius 1949 [C, Fa].

This is a 'tramp' species originating in Africa and now well established all over the world. It is not present in the Brinck and Dahl Collection.

***Tetramorium simillimum* Smith**

Tetramorium simillimum Smith 1851 var. *insulare* Santschi 1928, Santschi 1933 [Mi], Donisthorpe 1936, Wellenius 1949.

Santschi described his variety from Fiji, stating that it differed from the typical *simillimum* by its darker reddish colour, its yellow appendages.