

the former. Promesonotal furrow laterally rather distinct between lateral pronotal teeth and antero-lateral corners of mesonotum. Oblique anterior face of petiole ending above in a pair of nearly obsolete and minute tumuli, each sending out caudad a vestigial longitudinal carinule. Postpetiole postero-dorsally shallowly impressed.

Specimens examined. — Brazil, Pará State: Salinópolis, 13-XI-1953, C. R. Gonçalves leg. 4 workers (CTB). — French Guiana: Cayenne, 1868, Jelski leg. 1 worker, holotype of *conformis* (NHMW), — Trinidad: Mayaro Bay, 11-III-1935, N. A. Weber leg. 1 worker, syntype of *brittoni* var. *littoralis* (CTB). Puerto Rico: Tortuguera Camp, 27-X-1950, W. F. Buren leg. 6 workers (WWK).

Distribution. — The hitherto recorded specimens suggest a continuous territory ranging from NE South America over the lesser Antilles to Puerto Rico.

Discussion. — The shallower occipital excision, the less pronounced lateral tubercles of the pronotum, the flattened mesonotum, and the very short, tubercular epinotal teeth distinguish the typical *brittoni* of Puerto Rico from the South American *conformis*. These differences, however, are seemingly infra-specific, and *brittoni* is best considered a synonym of *conformis*.

The type specimen of *brittoni* var. *littoralis* from Trinidad is even closer to the *conformis* holotype, differing mainly in the somewhat narrower postpetiole, and confirming the above proposed synonymy. The specimens from northern Brazil, in turn, have the epinotal teeth weaker and the mesonotum more flattened. At least in some of them, there is a vestigial mid-pronotal tooth.

Here I forego a discussion of the validity of *Mycetophylax* as a separate genus. It certainly is an ill-defined assembly of heterogeneous forms, a residue of classification. Whereas some of its members, such as *emeryi*, *cristulatus* and *bruchi*, are quite distinct from *Cyphomyrmex* s. str., the type species *brittoni* (= *conformis*) is dangerously close to *Cyphomyrmex morschi*, as Emery already pointed out in 1922 (p. 343). The only good generic difference for workers consists in the absence of a clearly defined and circumscribed antennal scrobe in *Mycetophylax*.

Note. — After finishing the manuscript of the present paper, K. Lenko and A. Rocha discovered three small colonies, one with alate females, of this same species in the vicinity of Caraguatatuba, on the northern São Paulo State shore line, Brazil, about 40 meters away from the beach. The ants (DZSP, WWK) were nesting in the soil. This discovery extends enormously the range of the present species.

The female, rather similar to the worker, has blunt lateral tubercles on pronotum, lacks notauli, and has the scutellum posteriorly feebly bidentate. Measurements of a single specimen: Total length 4.5 mm; head length 0.98 mm; head width 0.93 mm; thorax length 1.41 mm.