



Fig. 5. Distribution of *Aenictus decolor* in sub-Saharan Africa. Stars indicate type-localities of *A. decolor* and its synonyms; asterisks indicate other collection localities.

which the queens were taken, were measured for the composite description. The worker mandible, with its large second subapical tooth, is so distinctive that it alone separates this species from all other African species of which we are currently aware. Of the three descriptions of this species in the literature, only that of *batesi* specifically notes the presence of the second subapical tooth: "Der Endzahn ist nicht sehr spitz und hat eine sehr breite Basis . . ."

Workers of the genus *Aenictus* are essentially monomorphic (Schneirla, 1971; Topoff, 1971) with only a small difference in total length between the smallest and largest workers in any one colony. For the Asian species *A. gracilis* Emery, this difference in one colony was calculated to be 0.5 mm (Schneirla, 1971). For the workers of *A. decolor* measured in this study, it is 0.38 mm. Mayr (1878) determined the length of the type of *A. decolor* to be 3.3 mm; Forel's (1911) specimens of *batesi* ranged in length from 3.5 to 3.7 mm; and Donisthorpe (1942) reported the holotype of *bidentatus* to be 3 mm long. The longest specimen measured in the current study was 3.28 mm and is similar in this respect to the *decolor* and *bidentatus* types. According to Forel's description, *A. batesi* is obviously larger. However, examination of the type-specimens revealed *A. decolor* to be represented by