

with its northern race, *campestris*. Wheeler's unfortunate inclusion of the Austin specimens created confusion with respect to the nature of the true *sitarches*, and Creighton (1950) attempted to correct this by restricting the type locality to New Braunfels where the ants show more constant characters, and where a certain number of the types of *sitarches* were obtained. Cole states that west of Amarillo, Texas, there is a blending zone of the subspecies *campestris* with the subspecies *sitarches*. It thus appears that the region from which part of the original type series of *sitarches* came (Austin), and from which the types of *soritis* were collected (Albuquerque), are areas of extensive mixing and intergradation. It would not be surprising then to find the differences between the types of these forms something less than convincing. The restriction of the type locality for *sitarches* to New Braunfels appears to be a step in the right direction toward elucidation of the tangle, as the following points will indicate. Dr. Creighton kindly supplied me with homotypes of *sitarches* collected at Iturbide, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, which differ from the Wheeler types only in being darker in color. The promesonotum and the entire head of the minor, except for weak striae on the anterior genae, are smooth and shining, agreeing in part with the original description which was based on a mixed series. He also sent me specimens of *soritis* from Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico and from the Henry Mountains in southern Utah, in which the heads are striato-punctate.

These data lead to the conclusion that three western races of *sitarches* do in reality exist, and from them we may draw a tentative picture of the distributional pattern. The typical *sitarches* has a coastal range centering around Brownsville, Texas and southward into Mexico, extending inland to a limited degree. The subspecies *soritis* has a very large range reaching from Parral in southern Chihuahua through west Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and into southern Utah. The subspecies *campestris* occurs from central Texas to Mississippi, north to Missouri, and (from recent records) west into the plains of Colorado. A confusing intergradation of these forms seems to take place from the region of Austin, Texas, north and west, and it is precisely this area in which a large number of the records so far gathered have come. This, coupled with the description of races based on collections made in that region, have served