harvest live vegetation as a fungal substrate, and are collectively known as leaf-cutting ants. This behavior separates these two genera from the other attine genera, as these only infrequently use fresh vegetation as a fungal substrate.

Taxa of *Moellerius* are unique in that, as a group, they are found in open habitats. Nests are characteristic of the taxa, and nest architecture and behavior are useful criteria in resolving their relations. Details of nest architecture and behavior can be found in various works[5, 6, 7, 15, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 37].

The interaction of morphology and behavior is marked in the taxa of *Moellerius*. All taxa of the nominate subgenus, and indeed all taxa of *Atta* that harvest dicotyledonous plants characteristically anchor their metathoracic legs at a leaf edge, and then, using their long, scissors-like mandibles, cut out semi-circular sections using the point of attachment of the metathoracic legs as the point of rotation. Taxa of *Moellerius* have specialized, short, compact mandibles, and when compared with broad-leaf harvesters, have relatively shorter metathoracic legs. Due to these morphological characteristics, their behavior when harvesting vegetation is quite different [25].

Members of *Moellerius* have specialized on plants found in Neotropical rangelands. All taxa generally harvest grasses. However, *A. (M.) versicolor* is known to harvest xeric broad-leaf vegetation[27], and *A. (M.) striatus* also infrequently harvests dicots[29]. *A. (M.) silvestrii (= mesopotamicus)* is reported to cut citrus (?)[26], while other taxa may infrequently harvest dicot flowers[25].

NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY

The genus *Acromyrmex* has experienced a long and varied nomenclatural history, with inclusive taxa having been placed in four distinct genera: *Formica* L., 1758; *Atta* Fabricius, 1804[15]; *Myrmica* Latreille, 1818; and *Oecodoma* Latreille, 1818[34]. *Acromyrmex* was described by MAYR[36], and interpreted as a subgenus of *Atta*. It included the smaller attines, which corresponded to the Second Division of SMITH[49]. The type species for this taxon is *A hystrix* (Latreille, 1802)[33], originally described from a worker from Cayenne, French Guiana, and is now in the Latreille Collection of the Museu d'historie Naturelle of Paris.

FOREL[17] *described Moellerius* as a subgenus of *Atta* to group the distinctive taxa, *A. landolti* Forel and *A. balzani* Emery. *A. landolti* is the type of *Moellerius*, and was described from a worker collected from an unspecified locality in Colombia. The type is now in the Forel Collection of the Museu d'Histoire Naturelle of Geneva. By describing new taxa and transferring previously described taxa, EMERY[10] broadened the interpretation of the subgenus *Moellerius*. Subsequently, EMERY[12] elevated *Acromyrmex* to the rank of genus, and included *Moellerius* as a subgenus. The revisions of the genus *Acromyrmex* by SANTSCHI[47] and GONÇALVES[29] have followed this placement.

DIAGNOSIS OF *MOELLERIUS*

Taxa of this subgenus may be distinguished from those of the nominate subgenus due to their lack of supra-occular spines; by having short, weakly recurved mandibles, which are not sinuous at the borders; and by behavioral differences in fungal preparation and habitat preference. Taxa of the nominate subgenus have long, strongly recurved mandibles, which are sinuous along the margins, and have prominent supra-occular spines.