

geographical range. Due to the constancy of taxonomic markers, this taxon does not present any serious problem. As in all taxa of *Acromyrmex*, the trend for reduced thoracic spination in minor workers is present, although the genal striations remain present.

Distribution: Fig. 6.

*Acromyrmex (Moellerius) versicolor* (Pergande)

*Atta versicolor* PERGANDE<sup>38</sup>: 31, ♀.

*Atta (Moellerius) versicolor*, EMERY<sup>10</sup>; WHEELER<sup>56</sup>; SMITH<sup>50</sup>.

*Acromyrmex (Moellerius) versicolor*, EMERY<sup>13</sup>; CREIGHTON<sup>8</sup>.

TYPE LOCALITY: Calamujit, Baja California, Mexico.

*Acromyrmex (Moellerius) versicolor chisosensis* (Wheeler)

*Atta (Moellerius) versicolor chisosensis* WHEELER<sup>56</sup>: 705, ♀.

*Acromyrmex (Moellerius) versicolor chisosensis*, EMERY<sup>14</sup>; CREIGHTON<sup>8</sup>.

TYPE LOCALITY: Chisos Mountains, Texas, United States of America.

MAJOR WORKER: (FIG. 1).

Diagnosis: Medial pronotal spine well developed and with an acute inclination, oriented anteriorly. Eyes small, convex and salient. Propodeal spine much longer than its basal width.

According to WHEELER<sup>56</sup>, *chisosensis* can be distinguished from the nominate subspecies by being a lighter color, and by being markedly shinier, due to a reduction of cephalic sculpture.

Description: PERGANDE<sup>38</sup> and WHEELER<sup>56</sup>.

Variation: The workers I examined were quite uniform with respect to thoracic spination, irrespective of size. In smaller workers, there is a tendency toward a reduction of the tuberculation of the 3rd gastric segment, and the two subspecies are not distinguishable if small workers are used. The propodeal spines are well developed in workers of all sizes, but the thoracic spines tend to reduce in smaller workers.

This taxon is probably the most xeric adapted of the subgenus. It is apparently unique in that it heavily cuts xeric dicotyledonous plants<sup>27</sup>, although the mechanics of cutting are typical of the subgenus. This taxon is comprised of two disjunct subspecies, and is disjunct from other taxa of *Moellerius*.

Distribution: Fig. 6.

## BIOGEOGRAPHY

The concentration of taxa of *Acromyrmex (Moellerius)* south of the tropics of South America, as well as the disjunct, amphitropical distribution of *Acromyrmex (Moellerius)* as a whole, with the exception of *A. (M.) landolti (sensu lato)*, is reminiscent of the similarities of the disjunct flora of the arid and semi-arid regions of North and South America<sup>39</sup>. The high degree of biogeographic congruence between the taxa of *Prosopis* (Leguminosae) and *Acromyrmex (Moellerius)* suggests that they have experienced a common evolutionary history. This argument, however, runs contrary to other studies of the fauna north and south of the New