

(1) If *T. primaevus* could be recognized as sister species (or stem group member) of all the recent Antillean *Trachymyrmex* species we were allowed to assume a unique arrival.

(2) If *T. primaevus* could be recognized as sister species of other *Trachymyrmex* species, say, South American ones (and the Caribbean species excluded from this phylogenetic unit), an independent multiple arrival of *Trachymyrmex* would be probable.

(3) If *T. primaevus* could be recognized as stem group member of a phylogenetic unit comprising species other than the Caribbean ones, the primary direction of dispersal would be indicated to be from the Caribbean islands to the continent, and the recent Antillean *Trachymyrmex* species must have arrived by a secondary immigration.

(4) If *T. primaevus* would be sister species (or stem group member) of a group comprising some of the Caribbean *Trachymyrmex* species and some of the continental species (and the rest of the Caribbean species excluded) this would also indicate a multiple arrival of *Trachymyrmex* on the Caribbean islands.

Until now there exist only less precise proposals concerning phylogeny and distributionary history. KUSNEZOV (1963) proposed an arbitrary dendrogram showing *Trachymyrmex* near to the end of the phylogenetic branching of attine evolution, and WEBER (1972) supposed — without fossil evidence — that the attines probably originated in the moist lowland tropics of northern South America where the climate has been warm and stable since the Tertiary period. The discovery of *T. primaevus* helps in setting this origin as clearly before Miocene at least, since some major splitting into the present recognized genera was apparently accomplished. Increasingly detailed knowledge may be expected from future phylogenetic analyses and from fossils belonging to additional parts of the attine phylogenetic diagram.

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