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IS THE ANT GENUS *TETRAMORIUM* NATIVE IN NORTH AMERICA?

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For some years, a controversy has continued concerning the distribution in North America of the ant genus *Tetramorium* Mayr. On opposite sides in this argument have been Dr. M. R. Smith (1943), who believes that all five of the *Tetramorium* species reported from North America have been introduced by man from overseas, and Dr. W. S. Creighton (1950), who thinks that the evidence points to prehistoric endemism in the continent for at least two of the species mentioned; *T. caespitum* (Linnaeus) and *T. rugiventris* M. R. Smith. Apparently there is no serious disagreement about the origin abroad of *T. guineense* (Fabricius), *T. simillimum* (F. Smith) and *T. pacificum* Mayr. The first two of these are very likely African in origin, since they occur in wild parts of Africa and have their closest relatives among the species of that continent. *T. pacificum* is apparently from the Indo-Australian area, although its exact source has never been seriously tracked down. Certainly, it is Old World in origin.

The two species *caespitum* and *rugiventris* are therefore the central elements in the discussion, and it seems appropriate at this time to review the important facts in connection with these two forms and to add whatever significant observations are now available.

TETRAMORIUM CAESPITUM

This species is widespread in the Palaearctic region and in Africa, where it is extremely variable, as attested by an almost endless list of infraspecific variants. In terms of modern tax-