

onomic practice, many of these entities would be considered good sibling species, as indeed some of them already have been treated by various European authors. Many others are mere synonyms of *caespitum*—individual or nest variants that do not represent natural, self-maintaining populations. No one has challenged the placement of the North American populations with the more nearly “typical” *caespitum* variants.

Creighton’s assertion that *caespitum* is a native Nearctic ant rests on two principal pieces of evidence: first, the species was known at a very early date, i.e., 1895, from states as remote as Tennessee and Nebraska; second, there is present in North America, at least in the eastern states, a workerless parasite of *caespitum*, the aberrant species *Anergates atratulus* (Schenck), the transport and establishment of which would seem to present special difficulties.

The difficulty with the first piece of evidence is that the exact situation of the collections made in Tennessee, Nebraska and elsewhere in the “interior” of North America was never specified. All of these collections may have been, and probably were, made in or near “culture areas,” that is, regions strongly disturbed by the presence of man. The experience of several practiced myrmecological field workers, including that of Dr. Creighton (personal communication) and myself, indicates that so far as known, *caespitum* in North America is known *only* from rather heavily disturbed localities, such as cities, towns, roadsides, farmyards, picnic areas and the like. I have been able to gather no records at all to show the existence of the species in places remote from the works of man in North America.

This situation contrasts with that holding in the Old World, at least so far as my own personal experience goes, and judging also from what I have been able to glean from various publications dealing with the species, and from personal communications with European myrmecologists. To sum up this information, it can be stated that *T. caespitum* in Europe and (although given various infraspecific names) in China is often abundant in and around human habitations, just as in North America. However, it is also to be found, often in abundance, in localities that show little or no trace of human disturbance, and that are far from the nearest humanly-occupied places. The contrast is very marked if one collects, as I have, at intermediate altitudes in