

The *Xiphomyrmex spinosus* complex (which may represent a single variable species) is the one example that cannot be explained away, and it is all the more remarkable, considering its isolated position in southwestern United States and through much of Mexico, far away from the remainder of the generic range, which is entirely Old World tropical and warm-temperate. Preliminary examination reveals no reason to consider this complex as other than bona fide *Xiphomyrmex*, and its distribution is almost certainly that of a long-established endemic group of populations, surely pre-Columbian in North America. *Xiphomyrmex* is separated from *Tetramorium* by a very minor character, 11 antennal segments in place of the 12 of *Tetramorium*. Future revisers could well fail to be impressed by the soundness of the generic split based on this difference, so that we may eventually see a systematic technicality bring back *Tetramorium* as a native American genus.

SUMMARY

Of the five species of *Tetramorium* so far reported as occurring in North America, only two are under dispute as possibly having existed on this continent prior to the advent of European colonists; these are the species heretofore known as *T. caespitum* and *T. rugiventris*. Evidence is presented to show that *T. caespitum* almost certainly was introduced by man from Europe, this evidence consisting primarily of the demonstration that *T. caespitum* in North America, unlike the Eurasian populations, is distributed exclusively in the manner of a man-accompanying "tramp" species. The species *rugiventris*, on the other hand, is removed from *Tetramorium*, where it does not fit well, and is transferred to *Myrmica*. The number of *Tetramorium* species occurring in North America is thus reduced to four, all of them likely introductions from the Old World within historical times. The only member of tribe Tetramoriini that can safely be considered as endemic to the New World at the present time is the *Xiphomyrmex spinosus* complex, widespread in southwestern U. S. and Mexico.