

B R E V I O R A

Museum of Comparative Zoology

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

MAY 6, 1959

NUMBER 107

A REVISION OF THE DACETINE ANT GENUS *NEOSTRUMA*

BY WILLIAM L. BROWN, JR.

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Neostruma* Brown includes six known neotropical species forming a compact and distinctive group in subtribe *Strumigeniti* of tribe *Dacetini*. This genus evidently was derived within the New World tropics from the *gundlachi* group ("subgenus *Pyramica*") of the large tropicopolitan genus *Strumigenys* Fr. Smith.

The *S. gundlachi* group is also neotropical in distribution. It contains a graded series of species, linked to the more "typical" *Strumigenys* through the *S. connectens* group (Kempf, 1958, *Rev. Brasil. Ent.*, 8:59-68), that foreshadow *Neostruma* in head shape, development of serial denticulation of the mandibles, lengthening of labral lobes, reduction of pilosity and spongiform appendages, and other characters.

Neostruma is set off from these by its very long labral lobes with their short trigger hairs, and by the distinctive form and armament of the mandibles, featuring very short apical fork teeth and a series of denticles on each side of a submedian (pre-apical) tooth (Fig. 5). With the exception of *N. myllorhapha* new species (Fig. 4), a "countercurrent" specialist with secondarily elongate mandibles, the *Neostruma* species show a co-adaptive complex of characters converging toward those of *Smithistruma* Brown, but not reaching the same degree of completeness (see Brown and Wilson, in press). Among the characters involved in this complex are the following:

1. Shortening of mandibles.
2. Reduction of apical fork.