

The species form small colonies, chiefly in the leaf litter of rain forest or tropical evergreen forest, and nests occupy cavities in rotting twigs, pieces of bark or similar forest-floor vegetable debris so far as we know. Four of the species (*brevicornis*, *mylorhapha*, *metopia*, *zeteki*) occur in Central America, one (*mustelina*) is widespread in tropical Mexico, and one (*crassicornis*) is known only from southeastern Brazil. It seems strange that no records of the genus are available for northern or Amazonian South America, but then collecting in these regions has scarcely begun so far as the Dacetini are concerned. All of the records we now have are from mainland localities; the genus apparently is absent from the West Indies. In the areas where it occurs, the genus is usually not scarce, but exists in fair numbers along with species of *Strumigenys*, particularly of the *gundlachi* group, and many other cryptobiotically foraging ants. The food, judging from what we know of *Neostruma mustelina*, consists primarily of small entomobryomorph Collembola and possibly some other minute terrestrial arthropods as well. Hunting behavior is like that of *Smithistruma* rather than like the *Strumigenys* so far studied.

The material used in this study has come from various sources (see Acknowledgements at end of paper), but the principal places of deposition are the United States National Museum, Washington (USNM), and the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts (MCZ).

The measurements and proportions used, and their abbreviations, are as in my other papers on dacetine ants; see especially Brown, 1953, *Amer. Midl. Nat.*, 50: 7-15, or Brown, 1953, *Jour. New York Ent. Soc.*, 61: 53, 101.

NEOSTRUMA BROWN

= *Neostruma* Brown, 1948, *Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc.*, 74:111. Type species: *Strumigenys crassicornis* Mayr, 1887, by original designation (+ 3 spp.). < *Strumigenys*, *auct.* (+ 3 spp.).

Worker. Small to minute, resembling members of the *Strumigenys gundlachi* group (from which *Neostruma* appears to have been derived; see Brown and Wilson, in press). Mandibles inserted rather far apart, linear, tapering to an apical fork of two very short teeth separated by 2.4 minute intercalary den-