

The Neotropical Species of the Ant Genus *Strumigenys* Fr. Smith: Group of *silvestrii* Emery

By William L. Brown, Jr.

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

(With 1 text-figure)

This paper is a continuation of my series on the New World fauna of the dacetine ant genus *Strumigenys* Fr. Smith. Earlier parts, containing keys to the abbreviations for measurements and proportions, may be found in Jour. New York Ent. Soc. vol. 61: pp. 53-59, 101-110 (1953). In addition to these, other parts have been published or are being prepared. It is planned to end the series with an illustrated key to all the New World species of the genus.

The group of *S. silvestrii* Emery includes three species of minute size and sharing a basic plan of mandibular dentition. The mandibles each have, in addition to the apical fork, one acute preapical tooth plus an additional, exceedingly minute denticle that is situated more or less near the midlength of the inner border of the shaft. This denticle evidently corresponds to the more proximal of the two preapical teeth in the *mandibularis* series, and to the denticle, present but so difficult to see, in species such as *S. emeryi* Mann and *S. hindenburgi* Forel. Often, such denticles rise from the dorsal face, rather than the masticatory face proper, so that they can be seen clearly only in oblique view, and then the mandible often needs to be darkened in silhouette against a brightly lighted background.

The affinities of the *silvestrii* group species may be closest with the *louisianae* group, through species like *S. mixta* Brown, though similarities are also noted with the *mandibularis* series and with *S. perparva* Brown.

Strumigenys silvestrii Emery

(Fig. 1)

- Strumigenys silvestrii* Emery, 1905, Bull. Soc. Ent. Ital., 37 : 168, fig. 27, worker. Type loc.: Santa Catalina, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Syntypes in Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genoa, and Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ.
- Strumigenys pundlachi*, Creighton, 1930, Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., 38 : 179, fig. 1 A, worker, *nee* Roger.
- Strumigenys* (s. str.) *caribbea* Weber, 1931, Rev. Ent., Rio de Janeiro, 4 : 43, fig. 12, female, worker. Type loc.: Soledad, Cienfuegos, Cuba. Syntypes: Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ. NEW SYNONYMY.