

THE NEOTROPICAL SPECIES OF THE ANT GENUS
STRUMIGENYS FR. SMITH:
MISCELLANEOUS CONCLUDING STUDIES

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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. 61: 53-59, 101-110 (1953). In addition to these, other parts have been published in the same journal, in Psyche, and in Studia Entomologica, Petrópolis, Brazil. This section is a final one so far as currently available material in the genus indicates; only one more section, which will be composed chiefly of an illustrated key to the New World members of the genus, is planned at present.

S. micretes and *S. lacacoca*

Following the descriptions of what I called the *emeryi* group (Brown, 1959) the species were discussed as follows:

"The four species *emeryi*, *nevermanni*, *micretes* and *lacacoca* are very close, and seem, from the limited material available, to replace one another in a chain extending from Mexico to Panama, and perhaps beyond. So far as I can see now, the differences are complex enough and strong enough to indicate that each form is a distinct species; perhaps together [they constitute] one superspecies. However, it is not beyond possibility that one or more of these forms intergrades with a neighbor. More material is needed."

Since that writing, material has turned up which, though small in amount, tends to bridge the gap between *S. micretes* Brown and *S. lacacoca* Brown, indicating perhaps that they belong to a single variable species. Nevertheless, the new material poses certain problems itself, and the discussion next offered is intended to give details that should help in eventually straightening this complex out.

A sample consisting of parts of four nest series from Boquete, Chiriqui Province, Panama (F. M. Gaige leg., see below) contains 25 workers with highly variable preapical mandibular dentition, the denticles varying in number from 1 to 4 in the two mandibles taken together, and also varying markedly in size, acuteness and position, so as to bridge virtually completely the chief diagnostic character-gap between *micretes* (each mandible with a small but acute preapical tooth, and a little farther up a minute denticle) and *lacacoca* (man-