series of names was originally proposed, and has for a long time been treated, as subspecies or varieties of *O. haematodus*. Where types have been studied, each of these names, considered separately on its merits as representing a probable biological species, has fallen unambiguously into one of two categories: species, and synonyms of species.

It should be emphasized that species in this study are primarily morphospecies in practice, but morphospecies nonetheless considered in the light of the biological species concept. It makes a big difference whether one considers broadly sympatric *haematodus*-group forms occurring widely in Amazonia (e. g., *haematodus, baurt, minutus, brunneus, caelatus, biumbonatus)* as «variants» of one protean species, or as separate species each in its own right. Contrary to the views of writers such as Blackwelder (1967) and Sokal and Crovello (1970), modern evolutionary theory can be used to establish the strong hypothesis that all of these forms represent real species. The very fact of consistent differences occurring over broad regions is evidence in favor of the multispecies hypothesis, considering that population polymorphism is an unlikely alternative in this case.

I do not intend to gainsay the difficulties of the species concept as it applies to finer levels of distinction in this genus. Clearly, it is possible that one or more of the species recognized in this work will eventually be demonstrated to be a complex of sibling species. That remains for gamma-taxonomic investigations of the future. No systematic review should be taken as more than a progress report on the investigation of the taxon under consideration. However, gamma-taxonomic studies are beyond those problems still needing attention at the beta level. For example, the status of nominal species within the *infandus* and *saevissimus* groups mainly appear to call for more material from a wider range of localities.

The species in the *Odontomachus* list that have authors' names enclosed in parentheses were originally described in *Formica* (except *Pedetes macrorhynchus* and *Myrtoteras kuroiwae).*

I have not attempted to indicate «new status» for species here newly raised from subspecific or varietal rank to the status of new species, mainly because a number of them have already been listed at species level by Kempf and other colleagues in catalogs or faunal papers, so that it is hard to be sure about individual cases.