hed this species, and I had tentatively recognized it as a variant of what I now call *brunneus*. With the metasternal character as a discriminant key, it soon became clear that the smaller «intermediate» component was in fact the hylean population of *O. brunneus,* which over most of the range of *O. haematodus* tended to converge toward the latter in a probable Müllerian mimicry relationship.

Thus was explained another puzzle: the apparent absence of *O. brunneus* from a vast area of territory between Panamá in the north and Mato Grosso (where it had long been known) in the south. In 1960, I had found *O. brunneus* nesting only in exposed situations on the upper forest canopy on Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone, and had wondered if *O. brunneus* might not be leap-frogging competing *Odontomachus* species in the Hylea by existing there only in this and other marginal habitats. There might still be some reality corresponding to this speculation, but at least we now know that *brunneus* occurs widely over most of South America; some records based on specimens I have examined are listed under that species [11].

In summary, *O. haematodus* is a distinct species occurring only in continental South America in the cis-Andean tropical forests. *O. bauri* and *O. brunneus* are much more wide-ranging and variable species that blanket the range of *O. haematodus,* and may tend to mimic it to some extent in sympatry. *O. haematodus* can be distinguished by its acutely produced, paired metasternal teeth, supplemented by metric characters (see Table I), as well as those of color, sculpture, pilosity and pubescence.

Because of the long-prevailing confusion in the taxonomy of the *haematodus* complex, locality records taken uncritically from publications or museum labels are not to be trusted. I have personally confirmed about 90 separate collections of *O. haematodus* from about 70 localities. Except for 3 specimens in MCZ labeled «Lima, Peru, Soukup Coll.», which I regard as a probable locality error, all localities are in continental South America east of the Andean Divide and south of the Llanos. *O. haematodus* is a forest ant that prefers low elevations. It is widespread and common in the rain forest of the Guyana region, and reaches the Orinoco Delta (N. A. Weber leg.). Throughout the Amazonian forests it is the most frequently collected *Odontomachus* species. In the northwestern part of this region, its limits are unknown, but it is common in eastern Ecuador at Limoncocha (H. Hermann, P. Kazan leg.), in the neighborhood of Benjamin Constant,