



A: Hypothetical evolutionary pathways of social parasitism in ants (according to WILSON 1971, p. 361); B: Allopatric speciation due to geographic isolation and subsequent transition of one derivative species to parasitism of the other (according to WILSON 1971, p. 360); C: The hypothesis of sympatric speciation and "radiative" evolution of social parasites among ants. Within a polygynous species, or a population of such a species, a subpopulation of reproductives emerges which mate close to, or within the nests. Due to an increasing sexual isolation between the "preparasite" and the original form the genetic differences between the two are growing, until genetic isolation is achieved. Depending upon certain features of the "host" population, and of the "preparasite" the latter has several options to develop into one or the other type of a social parasite. Only rarely more than one type is found in one and the same group (genus or subgenus) of host species