

1 Introduction

Epimyrma corsica was the first species of this genus though originally described by Emery [1895] under the name *Formicoxenus corsicus*. Together with *Formicoxenus ravouxi* André (1896), Emery [1915] transferred the species into his newly established genus *Epimyrma*. Meanwhile 12 *Epimyrma* species have been described [Kutter 1973, Espadaler 1982], one of which, *E. goesswaldi* Menozzi 1931 had to be synonymized with *E. ravouxi* [Buschinger 1982]. This species, and also *E. stumperi* Kutter 1950 exhibit a truly dulotic behavior [Winter 1979 and unpubl.]. *E. krausseii* Emery 1915 has a reduced number of ♂♂ and is able to conduct slave raids only exceptionally [Buschinger & Winter 1983, Winter & Buschinger 1983]. *E. vandeli* Santschi 1927 was said to be workerless, however, in laboratory culture our colonies from the type locality have produced a few *Epimyrma* workers (unpubl.).

Only the holotype specimen, a dealate ♀, was known from *E. corsica* up till recently. It is deposited in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" in Genova, Italy. The label indicates "Corsica, Revelière", which means that it was collected somewhere in the island of Corsica by Eugène Revelière. Via the collection de Saulcy it has come into Emery's hands. Neither the host species nor a more precise locality were known; the indication "Corse: Bonifacio (Emery)" in Bernard [1968] appears to lack any foundation.

2 The rediscovery of *Epimyrma corsica*

Among the papers of the late entomologist Dr Walter Faber from Vienna, we found some notes on an *Epimyrma* species which he had collected several times between 1967 and 1972 in the Dalmatian island Krk, near Baška. The host species was *Leptothorax exilis*, and the altogether 5 colonies did not contain any *Epimyrma* ♀♀. The ♀♀ were well corresponding with the description of *E. corsica*. Kutter [1973] mentioned this Dalmatian population as "*E. corsica* Em. from Krk", however, only in a figure caption. He had received the material from W. Faber.

In 1981-09-23/26, we collected a total of 24 colonies of this species in the localities where Faber had found them, in the island of Krk. An additional 15 colonies were collected in 1983-09-26/10-03, in the vicinity of Zadar (Yugoslavia) near Biograd, Ljubac, and Jesenice. In 1982-03-21/31, we were collecting systematically around the island of Corsica, and we finally found a population of *E. corsica* in an area named "Désert des Agriates" (between l'île Rousse and St. Florent), near the Col de Lavezzo. A total of 18 colonies were collected there, and a direct comparison with the holotype specimen revealed that the new material really represented this species.

The populations from Krk and Zadar exhibit only slight differences to that from Corsica. Mainly the ♀♀ from Yugoslavia are a little bit larger than those from Corsica (total length holotype: 2.38 mm, other ♀♀ from Corsica: 2.37 mm, 2.42 mm, 2.51 mm; 19 ♀♀ from Krk: 2.61 – 2.75 – 2.88 mm), and the thorax of the ♀♀ from Corsica is even more flat than in ♀♀ from Yugoslavia. The latter also appear a little bit more robust. Tab 1 contains some comparative measurements. In both areas we found a considerable number of ♀♀ with fusions of antennal segments (Fig 1). Seven out of 20 ♀♀ from Yugoslavia, and 2 of 15 from Corsica exhibit this peculiarity. Usually the antennal segments no 5 and 6 (scapus = segment 1) are partially fused, but in one ♀ from Corsica it is segment 8 and 9. Fusion of antennal segments frequently occurs also in ♂♂ (see section 4). Our field studies and the results of laboratory breeding of part of the colonies yielded the material for the following life history of *E. corsica*. We also include a description of the yet undescribed males.