

one species, *Stenamma westwoodii*. No additional species were added for approximately 40 years. Early author's isolated descriptions with no attempt at synthesis, a poor understanding of the modern species concept, and a fascination with trivial characters and subspecies compounded the complexity of this genus. This has lead, in some instances, to species living in the same area being named as new without having been compared with earlier named species from the same area. For example, *S. hirtulum* was described from the Caucasus Mountains in the late 1800s. *S. lippulum* was described from the same area nearly 50 years earlier. *S. caasicum* was described from the same area in 1975. In my opinion, all names represent the same species (DuBois, 1993).

Since Westwood's original description of the genus, no systematist has ever analyzed all European species as a group. The most recent and comprehensive revision is Arnol'di (1975) which includes species found within the borders of the former U.S.S.R. Although this revision is in Russian, it is an excellent starting point. Arnol'di described six new species. However, some European species (such as *S. petiolatum* and *S. sardoum*) do not occur in the regions of the former U.S.S.R. while some species from the central and eastern asian portions of the former U.S.S.R. are included (*S. ussuriense*, *S. kurilense*, *S. picetojuglandeti*, *S. sogdianum*, and *S. hissarianum*).

Collingwood (1979) discussed the single species which occurs in much of northern and central Europe (*S. debile*, which he called *S. westwoodi*). Kutter (1971) examined those species found in Switzerland (*S. petiolatum*, *S. striatulum*, and *S. debile*, which he called *S. westwoodi*). Arnol'di (1928) examined European species of *Stenamma* and described two new species. He later synonymized *S. tscherssicum* with *S. striatulum*. His publication represents the most detailed description and greatest quantity of measurements of any analysis of this genus in this region to date. Several analyses of regional ant faunas have included keys to the *Stenamma* species encountered (for example Agosti and Collingwood, 1988 provide excellent keys to ants of the Balkan region).

The bulk of European studies are best represented by examples such as Karaviev's (1926) description of an isolated species (*S. golosojevi*) or Begdon's (1931) description of an isolated subspecies (*S. westwoodii polonicum*).

African species received the same cursory treatment in the early years of the twentieth century by Forel (1901), Emery (1908), and Santschi (1921, 1940). No additional work has been done until recently (Espadaler, pers. comm.). Forel (1901) described an isolated queen (*S. msilanum*). Emery (1908) described another queen (*S. punctiventre*).