

at the base of the sulcus separating katepisternum and propodeum. This pit does not have as much variation across species examined as the prior mentioned pit.

Mouthparts, particularly palpi and mandibular teeth, seem to have limited utility in constructing a classification within the genus. Mandibular and labial palpi are represented by a palpal formula of 4,3. Earlier authors reported widely varying palpal formulas; however, in all specimens examined, palpal formula was unwavering. Palps are depicted in Fig. 13. Lower magnifications show their placement on the underside of the head and higher magnifications show their shape. In most species, the ultimate segment of each palp is a rounded bulb and the basal segment is flattened. Counts of mandibular teeth vary widely. There are usually two prominent apical teeth followed by a number of small teeth (or denticles). Surprisingly, males (although haploid) show little variation within species, but significant variation between species in number of mandibular teeth. This was one of the first clues which lead to the separation of *S. debile* from *S. westwoodii* (see DuBois, 1993 for further discussion). This difference was noted by prior authors as well (see for example, Kutter, 1977: 76).

RELATIONSHIPS

Historically, *Stenamma* has been considered one of the more primitive genera near the base of the Myrmicinae. Emery (1921) placed this genus first (in the subtribe Stenammini) under tribe Pheidolini in his classification of myrmicine ants. He considered the most closely related genus to be *Aphaenogaster*. Emery included *Aphaenogaster*, *Novomessor*, *Messor*, *Goniomma*, *Oxyopomyrmex* and *Macromyrma* within this subtribe. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, *Aphaenogaster* and *Messor* were considered subgenera of *Stenamma* (Emery, 1895). Emery considered Mayr's description of *Aphaenogaster brevinodis* and did not believe these two genera contained characters which would satisfactorily distinguish them. He noted the difference in clypeal shape and wing venation (most of his 1895 discussion centered upon differences in wing venation clustered around a small sample of species). He concluded the common ancestor of *Stenamma westwoodii* and *S. brevicorne* shared wing venation similar to that found in *Aphaenogaster*. Since the older name was *Stenamma*, this had priority. *Goniomma* was originally placed as a subgenus of *Stenamma* (Emery, 1895). Emery's (1921) closest subtribe was Pheidolini.

Although Emery (1921) considered *Rogeria* a member of the Leptothoracini near *Harpagoxenus* and *Formicoxenus*, Brown (1973) placed *Stenamma* and *Rogeria* in close proximity and both were placed