

Sardinia. However, other species (*S. debile* and *S. striatulum*) are known from islands off the Italian coast. *S. orousseti* is known from Corsica, Sardinia, and Spain. The Spanish record (of *S. sardoum*) may represent another species (undescribed?) which is morphologically similar to *S. sardoum*. However, additional specimens are needed to better understand variation within *S. sardoum* before such a statement can be verified. Further information regarding the biology of this species is unknown (including flight times for reproductives, food preferences, and preferred microhabitat).

COMPARISONS

This species is most closely related to *S. westwoodii* and *S. debile* based upon surface sculpturing and shape of the petiole and postpetiole. Emery (1915) mentioned this in his original description and almost considered it an island subspecies. He indicated a number of characters which he used to differentiate these species (*S. sardoum* and *S. debile* [which he called *S. westwoodii*]); specifically, he indicated it is larger with coarser sculpture. Pubescence near the joints is strong, short, and appressed. The head is elongated with the lateral margins distinctly curved; the antennae are longer and the segments of the funiculus are more elongated. The thorax and peduncle are longer and the propodeal spines project more.

Based upon this study, there are a number of minor differences (particularly sculpture and shape of petiole) which differentiate this species from *S. debile*. I believe these are sufficient to warrant specific status. As additional specimens are discovered and a clearer view of variation within this species is known, synonymy may (or may not) be justified. However, shape of the petiolar node dorsum appears to be unique among *Stenammina* examined.

S. orousseti is known from Corsica. It differs from *S. sardoum* in that the petiolar dorsum in lateral view is a flattened convex dome in *S. sardoum*.

The only other species which might be confused with *S. sardoum* are *S. striatulum*, and *S. petiolatum*. *S. striatulum* differs in that both head and dorsal thoracic sculpture are longitudinally carinate. Head sculpture is particularly close set in *S. striatulum* as well. *S. petiolatum* differs in that the scape is noticeably longer (surpassing occipital vertex in most specimens) and there are numerous erect setae on the scape as well. As a general rule, *S. petiolatum* workers are larger than *S. sardoum* (*S. petiolatum* TL 3.85 ± 0.109 , *S. sardoum* TL 3.65 ± 0.137).

MATERIAL EXAMINED

SARDINIA: Aritzo (Dodero) [spelled Dudero on both specimen labels]