

ranging from plains to mountainous regions (from 80 meters up to 1450 meters). This species is most often collected in mountainous regions. Nests have been found in rotting logs, leaf litter, in litter and humus around the base of a tree, and under stones (all in rather wet environments). Most specimens are discovered through funnel extraction of litter and humus (M. Terayama and K. Onoyama pers. comm.). It appears this species is most active during the winter months with most specimens collected during November - February (based on collections examined).

A single gyne is known from mainland China (Szechwan Prov.). Based upon the size of the specimen, size of the eyes, and comparisons with other gynes from Japan (*S. owstoni* and *S. nipponense*) and from Russia (*S. ussuriense*), I believe this specimen is *S. owstoni*. This single specimen should be compared with additional gynes associated with workers when additional specimens are collected from appropriate Chinese and Russian areas.

Prof. Kazuo Ogata (pers. comm.) reported that *S. owstoni* stores seeds within its nest. This was first discovered by Mr. Masao Kubota (Prof. Ogata was also present at the initial discovery). Prof. Ogata kindly provided an English translation of the original article ("Arito arayuru ari no hanashi" by Mr. Masao Kubota, 1987, Kodansha, Tokyo, pp. 23 - 24).

"...*Stenamamma owstoni* occurs in Hokkaido, Honshu and Kyushu, and is restricted to mountainous regions in latter two areas. The species is rare and its biology has not been known."

"I had a chance to find the nest of *S. owstoni* in Unzen (800 m alt.), Kyushu. The nest is smaller in size with a[n] entrance about the same size as a little finger and is constructed under soil about 30 cm in depth. To my surprise, its chambers were full of seeds! Then my question is what plant of seeds is that. Generally, it is difficult to identify plants by seeds. So, after [I] germinated and raised them, which spent almost 2 years, I finally got the answer. The seed is that of *Clethra barbinervis* Sieb. et Zucc."

"The plant is a deciduous tree, distributed in mountainous regions from Hokkaido to Kyushu. The flowers are white, forming a bunch in summer. In my observation, *S. owstoni* collects seeds only of this plant."

"It has been five years since I found this and now the tree grows about same height as me in my garden..."

Prof. Ogata added that *Clethra* belongs to the family Clethraceae. It is common in deciduous forests in Japan and is also found on Jejudo