DISCUSSION

S. nipponense is known only from scattered localities across Japa and it is rarely encountered throughout its range; it is usually found i broad-leaved deciduous forest ranging from plains to mountainou areas (20 meters to 1500 meters). However, this species is most ofte collected in mountainous regions. Nests have been found in rotting log leaf litter, and under stones (all in rather wet environments). Mos specimens are discovered by funnel extraction from litter and humus some by hand sorting of litter and humus (M. Terayama and K Onoyama, pers. comm.). It appears this species is most active near th surface during May and early June and again in September and Octobe (based upon collection records).

Nuptial flights presumably occur in September in early morning a specimens (males and females) were collected as they descended t earth on Mt. Moiwa at 530m elevation (K. Onoyama, pers. comm.). Th sample I examined contained 1 alate female and 4 males. No additiona information is known regarding the nuptial flights of this species.

COMPARISONS

S. nipponense is most closely related to *S. owstoni* with its simila head and thoracic sculpturing. However, it differs in that is has smalle eyes and the thoracic sculpture has significantly more punctures in *S nipponense*. The only other species which might be confused with *S nipponense* is *S. kurilense*. Specimens of the latter have much large compound eyes and much less punctures.

It is possible that a cryptic species of *Stenamma* is represented b some of the males I have examined. There are two distinct wing venatio types with no intermediate forms. Typically, mandibles have either 3 o 4 teeth; specimens with 4 teeth are always associated with the secon type of wing venation. Such arguments lead to my investigation of th *Stenamma westwoodii* versus *S. debile* problem (DuBois, 1993). How ever, sample sizes are so small that they may represent populatio variation. When sufficient males are associated with workers and gynes, this issue should be reexamined.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

JAPAN: Kyushu, Hikosan (3 workers — KEUC); Ehime Pref., Ishizuchi N. Park, Mt. Ishizuchi, C. Besuchet (1 worker — MHNG); Gunma Pref., Tsumagoi 4 km SW, 1050 m, Lobl (1 worker — MTPC); Hokkaido, [no further locality information] (1 worker — KEUC); Oshoro, S. Sakagami (2 workers — KEUC); Tomakomai, 20 m, K. Onoyama (1 worker — KEUC), 90 m, K. Onoyama (1 gyne — KEUC); Sappo, Mt. Moiwa, 530 m, K. Onoyama (1 gyne, 3 males — KEUC); Hakodate, Mt. Hakodateyama,