

mely diverse genus *Tetramorium* Mayr encompasses the great majority of described taxa, while the other six genera presently recognized play a less important role with respect to species numbers (Bolton, 1976). A complete cladistic analysis of tetramoriine ants may well reveal that these additional genera, three or four of them established for social parasites, in fact are ingroups relative to *Tetramorium*. The usually large colonies of *Tetramorium* can be found in virtually all kinds of terrestrial habitats, and a number of arboreal species is also known from tropical rainforests. Bolton (1976, 1977, 1979, 1980) revised the taxonomy of *Tetramorium* in all faunal regions except the Palaearctic, where systematics of the genus still remain in complete disarray. Over 130 names assignable to *Tetramorium* (including many infrasubspecific entities and other unavailable names) have been erected for Palaearctic forms, 55 of which were listed by Bolton (1995) as currently residing in species rank. It has been predicted that after a taxonomic revision the number of valid *Tetramorium* species will be about 25 in the Palaearctic (Bolton, 1980), but this will certainly prove considerably underestimated. Schulz (1996) gave an estimate of approximately 100 species distributed in the Palaearctic region.

Tetramoriine ants of Italy have received little attention after their treatment in comprehensive works on the ant fauna of this country by Emery (1916) and Baroni Urbani (1971). Occasionally a few faunistic papers dealing with the region have contributed some useful information to the knowledge of this taxonomically difficult group (Casewitz-Weulersse, 1974; Le Moli & Rosi, 1991; Mei, 1995; Poldi, 1980, 1994; Rigato & Sciaky, 1989; Scupola, 1994). The large number of 17 available named *Tetramorium* forms reported from Italy (Baroni Urbani, 1971; Poldi et al., 1995; Mei, 1995) gives rise to questions about their taxonomic validity. In addition, Italy is comparatively rich in social parasites that depend upon the workers of free-living *Tetramorium* species. Whereas most of these parasites are slave-raiders of the genus *Strongylognathus* Mayr, one of them, *Anergates atratulus* (Schenck, 1852), is found as a rare inquiline in *Tetramorium* nests. The tribal placement of the latter species has been a subject of debate. Recently Baur et al. (1996) provided evidence based on DNA studies that the genus *Anergates* Forel is best placed in Tetramorini, as are the other social parasites associated with *Tetramorium* hosts. No less than eight described species of *Strongylognathus* have been considered to belong to the Italian fauna (Poldi et al., 1995). However, it still remains an open question how many of these are distinct taxa, since partial revisions of the *S. huberi* group (sensu Bolton, 1976) by Pisarski (1966) and Baroni Urbani (1969) did not sufficiently clarify the taxonomy of the genus.

We report here on recent collections of *Tetramorium* species and some of their social parasites from southern Italy dating mainly from 1993 and 1994, including 20 new records of *Strongylognathus* and two of *Anergates*. The data were collected from the regions Sardinia, Sicily, Calabria, Lucania, Apulia and Abruzzi, but some additional findings of socially parasitic species from other parts of Italy are included. This new material together with studies of previous collections sheds new light on taxonomic problems regarding the *Tetramorium* and *Strongylognathus* fauna of the country.

ORGANIZATION OF SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Lists of synonyms are mainly composed of names attributed to Italian forms.