

Rather than giving all citations for the relevant names (this has been done by Baroni Urbani, 1971), we confine our compilation to synonyms and elevations in rank. Usually, large samples of several nests were taken, so only the locality was listed and no counts of individuals are shown. The samples were collected by the three authors except when otherwise indicated. In many cases, sexuals of *Tetramorium* were reared in the laboratory from pupae or prepupae extracted from the nests. As females (rarely also males) are often indispensable for species determination, this technique deserves to become more widely applied. Males were investigated only incidentally in the present study; little taxonomically useful information about this morph can be gained from the literature as yet. We also list additional specimens investigated by us, including type material of many questionable taxa from NHMB, MCG, MCV, MHNG and MCZ (for abbreviations see below).

In the main text, we summarize both morphological and biochemical characters important for species recognition. The determination of *Tetramorium* species on a morphological basis is extremely complicated. It still appears difficult to establish a satisfactory key for the Italian *Tetramorium* species, and for now we have refrained from the attempt. A previous study revealed the potential usefulness of isozyme electrophoresis in taxonomic investigations on the Tetramorini (Sanetra et al., 1994). Polymorphic loci detected in that work were examined and used as additional characters (Tab. 4 pag.333). The designation of enzyme electromorphs follows Sanetra et al. (1994), and new variants are assigned accordingly. We found that in *Tetramorium* diagnostic electromorphs are often present that permit species distinction more reliably than morphology. Unfortunately, electrophoretic patterns in *Strongylognathus* are rather uniform and do not aid in detecting species boundaries within the *S. huberi* group (see also Sanetra et al., 1994).

As far as possible we provide information about ecology and biology of each species. Further, the known range of each species, with emphasis on Italy, is commented with reference to the available literature data. For the social parasites, short statements on nest composition, host species and habitat structure accompany each record.

ABBREVIATIONS

a) Museums

- NHMB Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland
MCG Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genova, Italy
MCV Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona, Italy
MHNG Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland
MCZ Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge (Mass.), USA

b) Enzyme systems

- Gpi* glucose-6-phosphate isomerase
G3pdh glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
Idh isocitrate dehydrogenase
Mdhp malate dehydrogenase (NADP+)
Mdh malate dehydrogenase (NAD)
Pgm phosphoglucomutase

c) Measurements

- PW width of petiolus