

1991). These are nevertheless difficult to apply and have not extensively been studied outside the Iberian Peninsula. As in other parts of Europe, southern Italian *T. caespitum* are clearly characterized by male morphology and a unique *Mdhp* electromorph (Tab. 4 pag. 333). Details of differentiation from *T. brevicorne* of Sardinia are given in that species account.

The distribution pattern of *T. caespitum* in Calabria and Sicily evident from our samples is much different from that observed in central Europe. The species occurs either on cultivated land near the coast, with workers very large in size, or on mountain meadows above 1000m, there replacing *T. impurum* from farther north. It seems well possible that the coastal form is a recent colonizer which can compete with autochthonous species, like *T. semilaeve*, only in severely altered habitats.

Among the surveyed colonies from the southern mountains, we found three which deviated from all other electrophoretically investigated *T. caespitum* by exhibiting a unique *Mdh* electromorph (Tab. 4 pag. 333). Such colonies were collected from the Nebrodi mountains (Sicily), the Sila Grande, and the M. Pollino area (Calabria), occurring syntopically with usual *T. caespitum* at least at the two first mentioned localities. The apparent absence of heterozygotes suggests that a cryptic species may be involved, but further study is needed.

The presence of *T. caespitum* in Sardinia was questioned by Emery (1916) and Baroni Urbani (1971) who asserted that it is completely replaced by *T. brevicorne*. Hence, the latter author listed all previous records from Sardinia under "*T. prope caespitum*". However, confirmed by genital morphology and electrophoresis our investigations clearly show the existence of *T. caespitum* on that island, even though it appears uncommon there. Its discovery in a remote undisturbed place at Monte Limbara renders unlikely that the species has been newly introduced to Sardinia in historical times. The apparent fixation of a *G3pdh* electromorph in that population different from the one on the mainland (Tab. 4) further supports this point of view.

Tetramorium impurum (Förster, 1850)

Tetramorium caespitum v. *penninum* Santschi, 1927: **syn. nov.**

The syntype ♂♂ of *T. caespitum* v. *penninum*, from a colony infested by *Strongylognathus alpinus*, show morphological features more typical for *T. impurum* than for *T. caespitum* (comparatively strong and extensive rugosity particularly on the nodes, as already pointed out in the original description). As explained below, ♀ morphology alone is not sufficient to completely exclude possible synonymy with *T. caespitum* in this case. However, intensive collecting by the authors and others have proven that, in the Alps, *T. caespitum* only exceptionally occurs at the altitude of the type locality of v. *penninum* and does not serve as host species for *Strongylognathus alpinus* in this area (see also *S. alpinus* section).

COLLECTING DATA:

Calabria - Prov. Cosenza, Monte Pollino, 4 km NW Morano Calabro, 1000-1100m, 21.V.1994 [host of *S. testaceus* and *S. huberi*];

Lucania - Prov. Potenza, Monte Pollino, near Rifugio De Gasperi, ca. 8 km SE Rotonda, ca. 1600m, 21.V.1994 [host of *A. atratulus*];