

is ecologically more adaptable than evident at present, or if the mentioned records belong to a separate, yet unrecognized, species.

Tetramorium diomedeum Emery, 1908 [Figs. 5, 9]

Tetramorium caespitum var. *diomedea* Emery in Cecconi, 1908

Tetramorium diomedaeum[sic] Emery: Schembri & Collingwood, 1981

Tetramorium caespitum var. *bariensis* Forel, 1911: syn. by Emery, 1916

COLLECTING DATA:

Sicily - Prov. Siracusa, 5 km NE Canicattini Bagni, ca. 300m, 17.V.1993, M. Sanetra leg. [host of *A. atratulus*]; Prov. Siracusa, ca. 5 km NE Floridia, ca. 100m, 11.V.1994, M. Sanetra leg.; Prov. Catania, M. Etna, ca. 5 km N Ragalna 1000-1200m, 12.V.1994, M. Sanetra leg.;

Calabria - Prov. Reggio di Calabria, near Roghudi, 25 km E Reggio di Calabria, 600-700m, 15.V.1994; Prov. Catanzaro, Terme Caronte, ca. 2 km NW Sambiase, 200-300m, 17.V.1994; Prov. Crotone, 3 km E Savelli, ca. 700m, 19.V.1994; Prov. Crotone, 2 km NW Umbriatico, ca. 350m, 19.V.1994; Prov. Cosenza, Monte Pollino, 4 km N Morano Calabro, ca. 800m, 21.V.1994; Prov. Cosenza, Monte Pollino, 1 km NW Frascineto, ca. 500m, 21.V.1994.

OTHER INVESTIGATED MATERIAL: Sicily, Pellegrino/Palermo, III.1924 (probably H. Kutter leg.) 3♀♀ (NMB); Sicily, V.1926 (probably H. Kutter leg.) 3♂♂ (NMB); Calabria, Sambiase, IV.1920, C. Menozzi leg. 6♂♂, 1♀ (NMB); Apulia, Tremiti Islands, Capraia, G. Cecconi leg. 2♂♂, 2♀♀, 1♂ (MCG), syntypes of *T. caespitum diomedeum* Emery; Apulia, Bari, A. Forel leg. 5♀♀ (NMB), syntypes of *T. caespitum bariense* Forel.

The description of this taxon (commonly incorrectly spelled “*diomedaeum*”) was based upon material from the Tremiti Islands (Apulia). In the original account, it was placed close to *T. ferox* Ruzsky, 1903 from eastern Europe because of the wide and short petiolar nodes in females. Whereas Schembri & Collingwood (1981) and Agosti & Collingwood (1987) treated *T. diomedeum* as a distinct species, others (e.g., Radchenko, 1992b) relegated it into synonymy with *T. ferox*. Comparisons of typical *T. diomedeum* from southern Italy with female syntypes of *T. ferox* (in MHNG and MCG) revealed some differences, several

Tab. 1: Differences between ♀♀ of *T. diomedeum* and *T. semilaeve*

	PW/ML	PPW/ML
<i>T. diomedeum</i>	0.316 ± 0.009	0.360 ± 0.014
<i>T. semilaeve</i>	0.281 ± 0.008	0.323 ± 0.009

(for both species, based on 2 specimens each from 5 localities in Sicily and Calabria)

east European localities, probably belonging to *T. ferox* (in NMB), strongly differed from 2 syntype workers of *T. ferox* (in MCG) strongly differed from Italian material, especially in sculpture. We therefore consider *T. diomedeum* a valid species, a conclusion which is additionally supported by electrophoretic data.