

17.V.1993 & 11.V.1994, M. Sanetra leg. [host of *S. destefanii*]; Prov. Siracusa, ca. 5 km NE Florida, ca. 100m, 11.V.1994, M. Sanetra leg. [host of *S. destefanii*];

**Calabria** - Prov. Reggio di Calabria, ca. 4 km N Bova, ca. 1100m, 14.V.1994; 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 [host of *S. destefanii*]; Prov. Crotone, 2 km NW Umbriatico, ca. 350m, 19.V.1994; Prov. Cosenza, Monte Pollino, ca. 8 km E Mormanno, 1200-1300m, 20.V.1994; Prov. Cosenza, Monte Pollino, 1 km NW Frascineto, ca. 500m, 21.V.1994 [host of *S. destefanii*].

OTHER INVESTIGATED MATERIAL: Eolian Islands, Lipari, III.1924, H. Kutter leg. 3♀♀ (NMB) [tentatively identified as *T. semilaeve*]; Sicily, locality "V", V.1926, H. Kutter leg. 2♀♀, 1♀ (NMB), syntypes of *T. semilaeve siciliense* Santschi; Sicily, Segesta, III.1924, H. Kutter leg. 3♀♀ (NMB) [tentatively identified as *T. semilaeve*]; Sicily, Segesta, III.1924, H. Kutter leg. 2♀♀ (NMB), determined as *T. semilaeve siciliense* by Santschi [host of "S. huberi st. ceconii v. kutteri Santschi", 1 out of 2♀♀ mounted with parasites]; Sicily, Palermo, III.1924 (probably H. Kutter leg.) 3♀♀ (NMB), determined as "T. caespitum st. semilaeve var. ernesti Santschi" by Santschi; Calabria, Sambiase, IV.1920, C. Menozzi leg. 6♀♀, 1♀ (NMB); Apulia, Tremiti Islands, G. Cecconi leg. 3♀♀ (MCG) [host of *S. huberi ceconii* Emery, mounted with parasites]; Apulia, Tremiti Islands, Capraia, VI., G. Cecconi leg. 2♀♀ (MCZ) [host of *S. huberi ceconii* Emery, mounted with parasites]; Apulia, Gargano Peninsula, Manfredonia, 10.X.1961, C. Baroni Urbani leg. 7♀♀ (MCV) [host of *S. huberi ceconii* Emery as determined by Baroni Urbani]; Apulia, Gargano Peninsula, Pescici, 12.X.1961, C. Baroni Urbani leg. 3♀♀ (MCV) [host of *S. huberi ceconii* Emery as determined by Baroni Urbani]; France, Var, Foret du Dom, Parker leg. 7♀♀ (NMB), determined as *T. semilaeve siciliense* by Santschi; France, Var, Mt. Ferovillet, Parker leg. 3♀♀ (NMB), determined as *T. semilaeve siciliense* by Santschi.

Even though this is the most commonly cited *Tetramorium* species of the Mediterranean, the precise identity and distribution of the taxon has not yet satisfactorily been clarified. André (1883), in the original description, gave "Europe, Africa and Mediterranean Asia" as the range of var. *semilaeve*. According to Emery (1925) the worker material constituting the type series embodies several different taxa. Bondroit (1918) and Emery (1925) treated specimens from Banyuls-sur-Mer (Pyrénées-Orientales, France) as the typical *T. semilaeve*, but no lectotype has been formally designated.

Females of *T. semilaeve* can be distinguished at first sight from those of *T. caespitum* and *T. impurum* by smaller size (compare Tab. 2, 3) and absence of a bulging mesonotum and from *T. diomedea* and *T. meridionale* by the narrower petiolar nodes (Fig. 7). Their particularly weak to absent rugosity on the mesonotum allows differentiation from *T. brevicorne* and *T. sp. "Gargano"*. *T. punctatum* females are very similar to *T. semilaeve* in body shape and structure but are much smaller (see Tab. 2). Intracolonial variability in *T. semilaeve* is specifically pronounced and, in many nests, strikingly dimorphic worker forces are produced. Therefore, much difficulty is encountered during the determination of single workers which may be very similar to those of *T. punctatum*, in particular to the larger specimens. Workers of *T. caespitum*, if small, pale and weakly sculptured, may also not be securely distinguished from *T. semilaeve* (see also López, 1991). Yet, combined electrophoretic data from *G3pdh* and *Idh* loci enable the separation of *T. semilaeve* from the other Italian *Tetramorium* species except *T. meridionale* and *T. sp. "Gargano"* (Tab. 4 pag. 333). For further information on dif-