

Our investigations of types from the Santschi collection at NMB revealed several specimens corresponding to our concept of *T. punctatum* outlined below. Among them there were syntype ♀♀ of *T. semilaeve liparaeum* Santschi, 1927 (very small and pale, outside the range of variation observed in *T. semilaeve*) and a syntype ♀ of *T. semilaeve punctatum* Santschi, 1927 identical to ♀♀ from our collections. The syntype ♀♀ of *T. punctatum* originated from a different locality and year than the ♀ type and cannot be excluded to represent *T. semilaeve*. Therefore, we here designate the aforementioned ♀ as lecto type of *T. semilaeve punctatum*. Acting as first revisers according to Art. 24a of the Code (ICZN, 1985), we select *punctatum* as senior synonym over *liparaeum* because the ♀ caste allows species identification more reliably than the ♂♂.

COLLECTING DATA:
Sicily - Prov. Messina, Lipari (Eolian Islands), IV.1993, J. Heinze leg.; Prov. Messina, Francavilla di Sicilia, ca. 300m, 3.VI.1993, M. Sanetra leg.; Prov. Catania, ca. 5 km W Ramacca, ca. 400m, 10.V.1994, M. Sanetra leg.; Prov. Siracusa, near Carlentini, ca. 200m, 10.V.1994, M. Sanetra leg.; **Calabria** - Prov. Reggio di Calabria, ca. 4 km N Bova, ca. 1100m, 14.V.1994; Prov. Crotone, 3 km E Savelli, ca. 700m, 19.V.1994; Prov. Crotone, 2 km NW Umbriatico, ca. 350m, 19.V.1994.

OTHER INVESTIGATED MATERIAL: Lectotype ♀ of *T. semilaeve punctatum* Santschi (hereby designated; Figs. 8, 15): labeled "Type [red print]" / "T. semilaeve And v. punctatum Sant ♀ [probably Santschi's handwriting] Santschi det. 19 [printed]" / "Sizilien V-26 [handwritten]" / "23 [handwritten]" / "Sicile (Kutter) [handwritten]" / "LECTOTYPUS *Tetramorium semilaeve punctatum* Santschi det. M. Sanetra, R. Güsten, A. Schulz 1996 [printed on red cardboard]" / "Sammlung Dr. F. Santschi Kairouan [printed]" (NMB); Sicily, Siracusa, III.1924, H. Kutter leg. 2 ♀♀ (NMB), paralectotypes of *T. semilaeve punctatum* [only tentatively identified as *T. punctatum*]; Eolian Islands, Lipari, I.1924, H. Kutter leg. 3 ♀♀ (NMB), syntypes of *T. semilaeve liparaeum* Santschi; Sicily, Engalos[?]/Siracusa, III.1924, H. Kutter leg. 3 ♀♀ (NMB), labeled as "types" of "*T. semilaeve v. syracusium* Sant." [name never published, but specimens listed as "légère variation" of *liparaeum* in SANTSCHI (1927)].

T. punctatum represents the only distinct taxon that should be recognized among SANTSCHI's (1927) varieties of *T. semilaeve* described from Sicily. It is well characterized by the very small sexuals and the similarly minute and shiny workers. Females resemble those of *T. semilaeve* but are much smaller (see Tab. 2). Apparently there are also subtle structural differences, which, however, we have not thoroughly investigated. In the field it is usually possible, with some experience, to distinguish *T. punctatum* colonies from *T. semilaeve* even without any optical equipment. Yet, conserved samples without sexuals can sometimes be confused with small and pale *T. semilaeve*. The application of biochemical characters proved helpful in this case, since a *G3pdh* electromorph unique among Italian *Tetramorium* species appears fixed

Tab. 2: Differences between ♀♀ of *T. punctatum* and *T. semilaeve*

	HW (mm)	ML (mm)
<i>T. punctatum</i>	0.84 ± 0.02	1.31 ± 0.05
<i>T. semilaeve</i>	1.13 ± 0.05	1.90 ± 0.05

(for both species, based on 10 specimens from different localities in Sicily and Calabria; includes lectotype ♀ of *T. punctatum*: HW 0.84 mm, ML 1.28 mm)