conspicuous arched pattern never seen to this extent in *T. caespitum*.

As can be inferred from electrophoretic data, *T. brevicorne* has attained greater genetic distance to *T. caespitum* than might be expected from their morphological similarity *T. brevicorne* completely deviated from sympatric *T. caespitum* in Sardinia at four of the investigated loci (Tab. 4). At the loci *Gpi* and *Mdhp*, *T. brevicorne* appears fixed for certain electromorphs occurring, but rarely, in two other Italian species, *T. meridionale* and *T. diomedeum*. We used electrophoretic data to securely assign to either *T. caespitum* or *T. brevicorne* those samples containing workers only, especially the two colonies which were found in association with *S. testaceus*. At least one *T. brevicorne* sample containing sexuals (reared in the laboratory) was available from each collecting locality listed above.

T. brevicorne is quite common in the mountains of Sardinia where it was much more regularly collected than *T. caespitum*. Only rarely, single queens were detected inside the nests of *T. brevicorne*, so monogyny may be presumed notwithstanding the relatively small size of females. We suggest the species to be confined to Corsica and Sardinia, even though it has been quoted twice from Sicily (Donisthorpe, 1926; Baroni Urbani, 1964). These two records were established on worker material only, and might thus be due to determination errors. Poldi et al. (1995) also omitted Sicily from the range given for *T. brevicorne* but without any comment.

Tetramorium sp. "Gargano" [Figs. 4, 12, 14]

COLLECTING DATA:
Calabria - Prov. Crotone, 2 km NW Umbriatico, ca. 350m, 19.V.1994; Prov. Cosenza, Monte Pollino, 1 km NW Frascineto, ca. 500m, 21.V.1994;
Apulia - Prov. Foggia, Gargano, road N. 528, ca. 2 km NE intersection to Carpino, ca. 700m, 23.V.1994, R. Güsten & M. Sanetra leg.

Specimens from three localities in Calabria and M. Gargano could not be clearly assigned to any of the described *Tetramorium* taxa of the western Mediterranean region. As a consequence, it appears to us that these samples represent a species not yet recognized in Italy, but possibly having close relatives elsewhere in the Mediterranean. The new entity is provisionally referred to as *T.* sp. "Gargano" until new information will eventually allow a more definite treatment. Morphologically it mostly resembles the Tyrrhenian *T. brevicorne*, and differential characters are not markedly developed. Workers of *T.* sp. "Gargano" show a strong, mainly longitudinal, rugosity over the whole surface of the petiolar nodes (Fig. 4), approaching (but not reaching) the condition observed, for example, in *T. moravicum* Kratochvil, 1941 and *T. forte* Forel, 1904 (see Fig. in Schulz, 1996: 408). The mentioned sculptural elements are variable but clearly weaker and more restricted in *T. brevicorne*. Nevertheless, some specimens of the latter approach *T.* sp. "Gargano" in distinctness of the rugae but not in extent, as they are invariably absent (in contrast to the reticulate microsculpture) from the center of the nodes in *T. brevicorne*. In females, mesonotal rugosity is apparently both more extensive and slightly stronger developed in *T.* sp. "Gargano" than in *T. brevicorne* (Figs. 14, 16). Additionally, the petiolar nodes appear of a slightly different shape and are more broadly