

Strongylognathus testaceus

Lombardy - Prov. Brescia, Lago di Garda, Limone sul Garda, ca. 100m, 18.VII.1991, R. Schumann leg. [host: *T. caespitum*];

Veneto - Prov. Treviso, Nervesa della Battaglia near Conegliano, ca. 100m, 25.VII.1991, M. Sanetra leg. [host: *T. caespitum*];

Trentino-Alto Adige - Prov. Bolzano, Val Venosta (Etschtal), Adige riv., Tanas, ca. 1600m, VII.1991, A. Buschinger leg. [host: *T. impurum*];

Piedmont - Prov. Cuneo, Val Gesso near Valdieri, ca. 600m, 10.VII.1992, M. Sanetra leg. [host: *T. caespitum*];

Friuli-Venezia Giulia - Prov. Udine, Monte S. Simeone near Bordano, ca. 300m, 31.V.1996, M. Sanetra leg. [host: *T. caespitum*].

Anergates atratulus

Veneto - Prov. Verona, ca. 5 km N Fumane near Verona, ca. 100m, 26.VII.1991, M. Sanetra leg. [host: *T. caespitum*];

Trentino-Alto Adige - Prov. Bolzano, Val di Senáles (Schnalstal), Maso Corto (Kurzzras), ca. 2100m, VII.1991, A. Buschinger leg. [host: *T. impurum*];

Tuscany - Prov. Livorno, Isola d'Elba, Monte Maolo, ca. 200m dir. Monte Capanne, 700-800m, 21.V.1996, M. Sanetra leg. [host: *T. cf. impurum*].

DISCUSSION

In the recent past little information has been added to the knowledge of tetramoriine ants in southern Italy. Our extensive morphological and biochemical investigations presented here led to the recognition of eight different species of *Tetramorium* and four species of socially parasitic *Strongylognathus* in the studied regions Sardinia, Sicily, Calabria, Lucania, Apulia and Abruzzi. The rare inquiline *Anergates atratulus* was recorded from Lucania and Sicily for the first time. Other researchers who have dealt with the ant fauna of these regions, like Baroni Urbani (1971) and Poldi et al. (1995), provided inadequate taxonomic concepts for the genera *Tetramorium* and *Strongylognathus*, which make absolute comparisons of species numbers difficult. However, we discovered at least one *Tetramorium* species, *T. sp.* "Gargano", which has not been recognized before and is thus considered new to the Italian ant fauna. Within the range of the otherwise clearly defined species, we have detected some problematic populations which are mainly characterized by different enzyme phenotypes, for example *T. caespitum* from Sardinia. We reject, however, the conclusion by de Haro et al. (1995) that such differences in itself warrant recognition of a population as a separate species.

In Sardinia we noted *T. brevicorne*, *T. meridionale* and *T. semilaeve* as frequent species, while *T. caespitum* was recorded with certainty only from a single locality at Monte Limbara. *T. brevicorne* most commonly inhabits the higher altitude sites. On the other hand, *T. semilaeve* and *T. meridionale* have a more coastal and lower montane distribution. In contrast to its scarcity on the mainland, *T. meridionale* dominates in many places up to elevations of about 800m. The presence of these four *Tetramorium* species in Sardinia is concordant with those listed by Poldi et al. (1995), and an isolated record of *T. diomedaeum* (Krausse, 1912) should be interpreted as a misidentification. All of the Sardinian species but *T. brevicorne* are also known from the Italian mainland. For the neighbouring island of Corsica, Casevitz-Weulersse (1990) reports the same four species, plus *T. forte* Forel, 1904, *T. punicum* (Smith, 1861) and an unidentified species. As