Nonetheless, the attribution of *S. alboini* to the Italian fauna (Baroni Urbani, 1971; Poldi et al., 1995) is erroneous: the two reported localities for this species (Finzi, 1924b; Kutter, 1952) are in Slovenia and Switzerland, respectively (see Fig. 27).

S. testaceus appears to be the sole representative of *Tetramorium*'s social parasites extending to Sardinia. Neither a species of the *S. huberi* group nor *A. atratulus* has ever been discovered on that island (e.g., Baroni Urbani, 1971). In Sicily and Calabria *S. destefanii* and *S. alpinus* can be found, but each species depends on clearly different climatic conditions. *S. alpinus* is known exclusively from upper montane to subalpine grasslands above 1500m whereas *S. destefanii* typically prefers lowland habitats near the coast, even inhabiting cultivated land. In southern Calabria *S. testaceus* has been found as an additional species at moderate elevations of about 1000m. Passing northwards to M. Pollino there are three species of *Strongylognathus* that occur sympatrically, *S. testaceus*, *S. huberi* and *S. destefanii*. The latter two show obvious differences in their vertical distribution, *S. huberi* occurring in the same range as *S. testaceus*. Moreover, it seems even possible that *S. alpinus* will be discovered at higher elevations as the fourth *Strongylognathus* species of the M. Pollino. A quite similar pattern of differential niche specificity is observable at the Apulian M. Gargano. Here, *S. huberi* and *S. testaceus* are known to live exclusively in the mountainous region in the center of the peninsula, whilst *S. destefanii* mainly inhabits the coastal strip but also penetrates into the mountains. *S. destefanii* has adapted to very dry and warm places and the Gargano area might be the northern limit of its range. More detailed observations from these contact zones between different *Strongylognathus* species promise to be of high interest.

Considering all our present knowledge about the distribution of different *Strongylognathus* species the picture emerges that the inquiline *S. testaceus* can cohabit with every species of the *S. huberi* group. In contrast, different species of the latter group have only been found on one occasion to occur syntopically. It can be imagined that resource competition on host species nests is much stronger among slave-makers than between slave-makers and inquilines. A further example is provided by a finding of *S. destefanii* and *A. atratulus* in Sicily where both species had established their nests only few meters apart. On the Gran Sasso at a height of about 1800m, *S. alpinus* and *S. testaceus* have even been found within the same *Tetramorium* colony. Since *S. testaceus* is a queen-tolerant inquiline, we suggest that *S. alpinus* had conducted a slave-raid on the *S. testaceus* colony that was afterwards incorporated into the slave-makers' society. As observed during laboratory experiments, host colony incorporation is perhaps not an unusual outcome of *Strongylognathus* slave raids (Sanetra & Buschinger, 1996). Another case of coexistence of a slave-maker and an inquiline has recently been detected in the mountains of Elba where *S. italicus* and *A. atratulus* inhabited the same nest of *T.* cf. *impurum* (see preceding chapter).

In accordance with different patterns of vertical distribution, species of *Strongylognathus* have obviously acquired several specializations in host use. As shown previously, climatic parameters prevailing at certain altitudinal ranges strongly influence the composition of the *Tetramorium* fauna. *T. semilaeve*, predominant in the lowland, probably constitutes the sole host species of *S. destefanii* in Sicily as well as in Calabria. *S. alpinus* exploits nests of *T. caespitum* in Sicily and Calabria and *T.*