

Some Tramp Ants of Old World Origin Collected in Tropical Brazil

WILLIAM L. BROWN, JR., Department of Entomology,
Cornell University

Of the numerous ant species that have been widely distributed over the earth by human commerce, most are Old World in origin. Notable exceptions are the fire ant, *Solenopsis geminata*, and the Argentine ant, *Iridomyrmex humilis*, both from the Neotropical Region originally.

Judging from the literature, one would suppose that tramp ants of Old World origin had gained little or no foothold on the mainland of tropical South America. However, a collecting trip made by the writer to Brazil in August and September, 1962, has incidentally furnished five records of Old World tramp ants from the tropical heartland of the South American continent. All of the collections were made in buildings of rather recent construction, a situation in which native ants of the Neotropical fauna were rarely found in the areas visited.

Tetramorium guineense, *Monomorium pharaonis* and *Paratrechina longicornis* were found in large numbers nesting and foraging in the top main (tenth) floor of the IAPETC Building in Manaus, Amazonas, where the *Monomorium* at least was a serious pest, being attracted to all foodstuffs, soap and to water in the washbasins. One morning, a large colony of *P. longicornis* was found to have occupied some damp, freshly laundered underclothing that had been spread overnight to dry on a windowsill; this colony had at least 10 dealate females and much brood.

Tapinoma melanocephalum was found foraging in files in the airport building at São Luis, Maranhão. (This small species occasionally becomes a pest even in temperate parts of North America. A case of infestation was drawn to my attention by a resident of Lexington, Massachusetts, U. S. A. The *T. melanocephalum* had been carried from Florida to Massachusetts in a souvenir comic head carved from a coconut still in its husk, and it became established in the house before its pres-

ence in the coconut was noticed. The *Tapinoma* apparently completely routed a resident population of *Tetramorium caespitum* from the house, and were themselves eradicated by the owner only with difficulty.)

Far up the Amazon (Solimões) River, where Brazil, Peru and Colombia all come together, *Monomorium floricola* was found nesting in the crevices of a wooden building on the grounds of the hospital at Benjamin Constant.