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A NEW FIND OF PARATRECHINA LONGICORNIS (LATREILLE 1802) ON THE AZORES (HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE).

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SUMARIO. Uma grande população de formigas da espécie *Paratrechina longicornis* foi encontrada em Ponta Delgada, São Miguel. Esta tinha sido colhida nos Açores unicamente em 1929, sendo este o primeiro assinalamento desde essa data.

Several authors have published on the ant fauna of the Azores and demonstrated how extremely poor in number of species if not in number of individuals it is (Wheeler 1908; Santschi 1933; Donisthorpe 1936; Wellenius 1949; Carthy 1955; Yarrow 1967).

Of the only 12 species recorded so far not more than seven can be called abundant or well established on the islands, the others seem to be very rare or have been recorded only once.

According to Yarrow (1967) all those species have been introduced accidentally in the Azores, and some are cosmopolitan «tramp» species or species common to the Mediterranean region and North Africa, such as *Iridomyrmex humilis*, *Ponera eduardi*, *Tetramorium caespitum*, and *Lasius niger*. Only one, *Monomorium carbonarium*, seems to be restricted to the Azores and Madeira.

Paratrechina longicornis, a further cosmopolitan species, which is native to all tropical cities around the world and is also found in greenhouses in France (Bernhard 1968) and Morocco (Cagniant 1962), was collected on the Azores only once in 1929 by J. Balfour-Browne in Vila Velhas, on the island of São Jorge (Donisthorpe 1936). Once established

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it should have become abundant on the islands, but Yarrow (1967), publishing on the collection of the Lund University in 1957, did not find any further specimens contained in it and thus concluded that *Paratrechina longicornis* had not become established on the Azores.

Since, to my knowledge, no further report on the Formicidae of the Azores has been published, the record from São Jorge in 1929 remained the only one.

In August 1985 I had the opportunity to visit São Miguel and Terceira for several days and collected ants around the islands.

In Ponta Delgada, the capital of São Miguel, I found a large population of *Paratrechina longicornis*, running around together with *Tetramorium caespitum* on the pavement of Avenida Infante D. Henrique opposite Praça Gonçalo Velho and other sites near the harbour.

Paratrechina longicornis is easily distinguished from other species on the Azores by its somewhat nervous looking movements («formiga louca», the «crazy ant»). Looking more closely the very long scapes of the antennae are an easy criterion for determination. A voucher specimen has been sent to the Museu Municipal do Funchal, Madeira. It will be interesting to see, whether this new population is as short-lived as the one reported by Donisthorpe (1936) on São Jorge, or whether *Paratrechina longicornis* will persist and spread over the whole island.

Besides this species I collected several other well documented ones on São Miguel and Terceira. *Tetramorium caespitum* (Linnaeus 1758), which has also been collected on São Miguel, Faial, Graciosa, Pico and São Jorge, was found for the first time on Terceira (Praia da Vitória and other sites).

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