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**A NEW SPECIES OF APHAENOGASTER
(ATTOMYRMA) FROM THE WESTERN UNITED
STATES (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)**

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ABSTRACT

This widely distributed and common ant of crepuscular habit, *Aphaenogaster* (*Attomyrma*) *megommatus*, n. sp., is described from workers collected one mile north of Camp Foster, Pyramid Lake, Washoe County, Nevada. It has also been collected in Nye and Pershing counties of the same state and also in Malheur county, Oregon; Yuma county, Arizona and Inyo county, California. The species is characterized by its extraordinarily large eyes, "callow like" color and obsolescent epinotal spines. The ant bears a superficial resemblance to *Aph. (A.) boulderensis* M. R. Sm. and could well be mistaken for that western species.

This article describes and figures the worker of a new but common species of *Aphaenogaster* (*Attomyrma*) of our western States. The paper also presents notes on the distribution and biology of this ant. The name *megommatus* refers to the extraordinarily large eyes, one of the outstanding characters of the species. In Creighton (1950, *Ants of North America*, p. 141), this ant keys out to *boulderensis* M. R. Sm. (1941, *Great Basin Nat.* 2 (3): 120), from which it differs in the unusually large eyes, the body color, the more sculptured and stouter body, and other characters.

Aphaenogaster (*Attomyrma*) *megommatus*, n. sp.

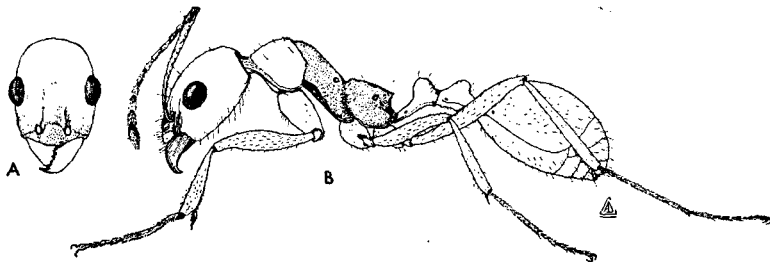


Fig. 1—Worker of *Aphaenogaster* (*Attomyrma*) *megommatus*, n. sp.
A, Frontal view of head; B, body in profile. Illustrated by Arthur D. Cushman.