

equipment or know that the ants may not appear exactly as described if different magnifications or light intensities are used.

It is often necessary to examine a subject from several aspects to determine such characters as the exact color and shape, or the degree of sculpturing. It is recommended that, if possible, more than one individual be studied, since taxonomic characters vary from specimen to specimen. When one first determines a species, he may be troubled by the variability of certain characters, but while identifying the species on numerous occasions, he gradually acquires what is known as a "habitus picture"; that is, he recognizes the species without difficulty just as one would recognize a well-known human individual. Even if one is positive that he knows a certain person, *accurately* describing him to someone else is usually very difficult or impossible. Likewise, a person may positively know a certain insect without being able to describe it. The surest method of recognizing a species of ant is to know definitely the characters that distinguish it.

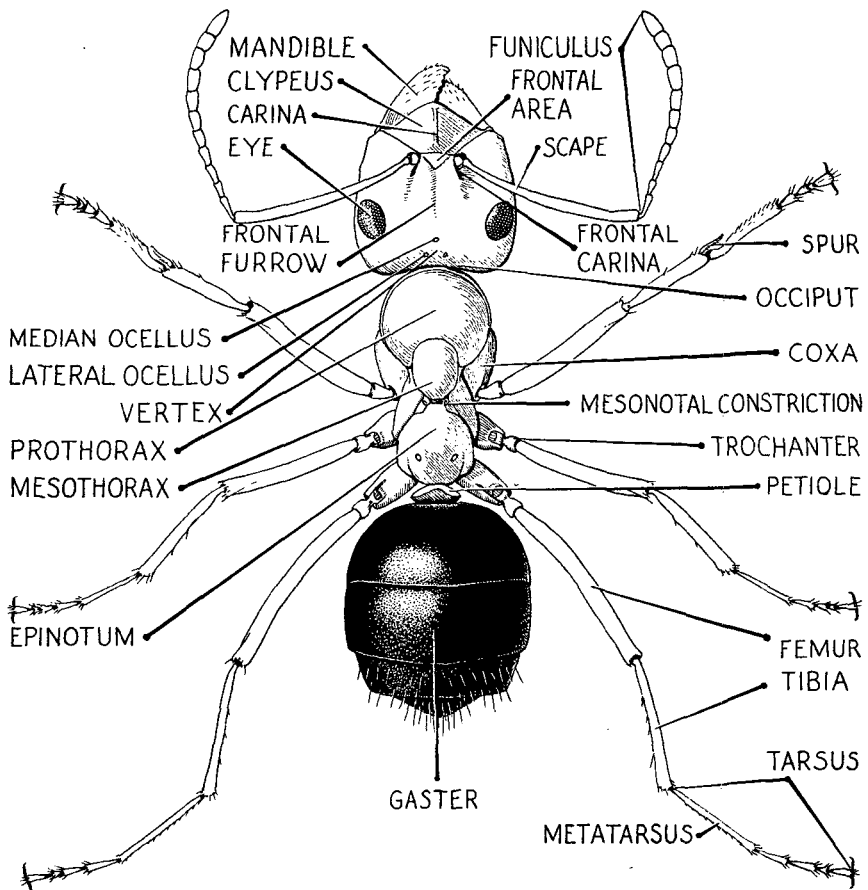


Figure 1.—*Fomica exsectoides* Forel, Allegheny mound ant, dorsal view of worker showing anatomical structures.