

Schneirla estimates that very large colonies may contain as many as 150,000 to 250,000 workers. As far as known, each colony has only one functional or mother queen. New colonies are formed by a splitting process in which a daughter queen leaves the parental nest, accompanied by a number of workers. A mature colony is capable of producing a small number of females, some of which may be fertilized in the nest by their brothers, but this does not preclude mating outside the nest, or with males of other colonies. Since females are never winged, they can make no nuptial flight. The functional queen in a colony is not capable of taking care of her brood—a task delegated to the workers. Males have emerged from nests from September into November. Workers are less light-avoiding than those of *coecus*; in fact, many of their foraging activities take place in daylight. The natural food of these ants is not well known but random observations indicate they are highly predacious on other insects such as beetles, termites, and the adults and brood of other ants. Newell reports the species as an important predator on the Argentine ant. Workers frequently seek meat for food in houses and stores. The presence of ants (workers or males, or both) in a house can be very annoying to a housekeeper, who frequently mistakes the males for termites or other insects. On several occasions I have received specimens of workers of *N. fallax* Borgmeier and *N. pilosus mexicanus* (F. Smith) that had fallen into crude, unprotected country wells in localities in the Gulf Coast States, causing the water to have a foul odor and an unpleasant taste. Although neither *nigrescens* nor any of the other legionary ants treated in this paper have been received from such situations, it would not be surprising if they were found under these circumstances.

References: Wheeler, 1900, pp. 563-574; Wheeler and Long, 1901, pp. 170-172; Newell, 1914, p. 147; Wheeler, 1926, pp. 263-266; Smith, 1927, pp. 401-404; Cole, 1940, p. 38; Smith, 1942, pp. 537-539, fig.; Creighton, 1950, pp. 64-66, fig.; Borgmeier, 1955, pp. 498-500, figs.; Schneirla, 1958, pp. 215-255.

Neivamyrmex opacithorax (Emery)

N. opacithorax is a native species that ranges from Kansas to Virginia, south to California and Florida, thence into Mexico (Baja California) and Costa Rica.

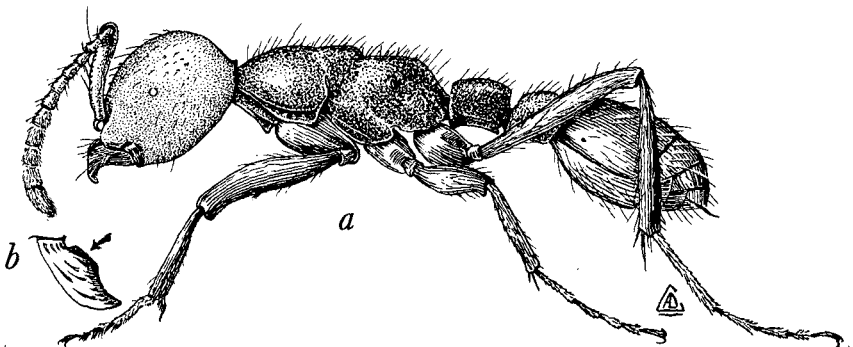


Figure 4.—*Neivamyrmex opacithorax* (Emery): a, Lateral view of worker; b, right mandible showing the non convex superior border.