

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *nigrescens*. *Specific characters:* Workers 2.2–4.6 mm. long. Similar to *nigrescens* except antenna apparently not so stout, scape not quite as long, nor eye as distinct. Superior border of mandible with a straight (at least not convex) margin between basal tooth and masticatory border (fig. 4,b). Color usually lighter, ranging from light to dark reddish brown; thorax usually the darkest, legs and gaster lighter than head and petiole. Sculpture noticeably different from that of *nigrescens*; in the latter species, head, thorax, petiole, and postpetiole are densely sculptured and opaque, whereas in *opacithorax* only the thorax and petiole are densely sculptured and opaque.

Biology and Economic Importance

This species so closely resembles *nigrescens* in biology and economic importance that only a few additional comments are necessary. *N. opacithorax* is apparently less common in the Eastern United States than *nigrescens*. The two species are similar in that males of each emerge from nests during September to November. The following notes on *opacithorax*, indicating that the ants may infest houses from nests outdoors, were sent in by a correspondent in Kansas City, Mo., about September 10, with several males and associated workers. He wrote as follows concerning them: "My own attention was first attracted to them when some few of them got into our living room, coming up from beneath the fireplace, and the next day into an adjoining room, coming this time from a cold air register, each time being noticed almost immediately and disposed of by spraying. Further search disclosed the fact that they entered the basement through a small hole or two in the foundation wall about which they swarmed. . . . I have seen nothing more of any winged ones. There are several armies of ants which have been working between unknown places and the rock foundation of our home. They enter small cracks from the outside. These might be the same species."

References: Wheeler and Long, 1901, p. 163; Wheeler, 1908b, p. 411; Smith, 1942, p. 560, fig.; Borgmeier, 1955, pp. 504–506, figs.; Schneirla, 1958, pp. 214–255.

Aphaenogaster lamellidens Mayr

This is a native species ranging from Illinois to New York and south to Louisiana and Florida.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Body slender, with long legs and antennae. Antenna 12-segmented, with an indistinct 4-segmented club. Frontal carinae not placed close to each other, partly concealing the antennal insertions. Eye well developed and with numerous ommatidia. Promesonotal and mesoepinotal sutures well defined. Epinotum armed with a pair of prominent spines. Abdominal pedicel composed of two segments, the petiole and postpetiole. Petiole distinctly pedunculate. Gaster from above oval, without truncate base. *Specific characters:* Workers 4.1–6.5 mm. long. Distinguished from the other species of *Aphaenogaster* by the following characters: Outer face of frontal lobe bearing a flange which projects rearward in the