



Figure 5.—*Aphaenogaster lamellidens* May: *a*, Lateral view of worker; *b*, frontal lobe showing the highly characteristic flange which terminates posteriorly in a tooth.

form of a tooth (fig. 5, *b*); epinotal spines shorter than base of epinotum; head, thorax, petiole, and postpetiole reddish, the gaster yellowish; usually the scapes, femora, and tibiae are dark or blackish. The most dependable character for distinguishing the species is the peculiar flange of the frontal lobe. As mentioned under *tennesseensis*, that species and *lamellidens* are somewhat similar, although the resemblance is only superficial. However, the thoracic sculpture of *lamellidens* is less coarse, especially on the sides of the thorax.

Biology and Economic Importance

This species, which appears to be more common in the southern section of its range than elsewhere, typically nests in wood. It forms colonies of a few hundred to several thousand individuals in stumps and logs that vary from fairly well preserved to well decayed. Dennis states that *lamellidens* is a highly adaptable form that nests in open or shady situations and in dry-to-moist habitats. He thinks it is the most common species of *Aphaenogaster* in Tennessee, but he has never found it above 2,500 feet. Wheeler claims to have found females starting incipient colonies in sand, but no other observers appear to have confirmed this observation. Dennis reports a nest in the brick chimney of a house. I have received specimens of workers said to have emerged from grooves in the floor boards of a home, the grooves apparently having been made by the ants or other insects. The species is similar to *fulva* in general feeding habits and economic importance.

References: Wheeler, 1905b, p. 383; Dennis, 1938, pp. 285, 304; Cole, 1940, p. 52; Van Pelt, 1958, p. 13.

Aphaenogaster rudis (Emery)

A. rudis is a native species, which ranges from Illinois to Massachusetts and south to Colorado and Florida. This ant appears in our earlier literature under the name *A. fulva aquia* (Buckley).