

Biology and Economic Importance

No complete biological studies have been made on *tennesseensis*. During its early stages of colony formation, this species is probably a temporary parasite in the ground nests of *A. rudis* and *A. rudis picea* (Emery). Both *A. rudis* and *rudis picea* have similar habits, and most commonly nest in the soil; *picea*, however, seems to occur at high altitudes. Indicative of this are the small size of the female, her highly polished body, and very large epinotal spines, and the peculiar fact that *tennesseensis* lives in ground nests only when its females occur in the nests of *rudis* and *picea*. Otherwise, the species is exclusively a wood-nesting ant, found typically in wooded areas. The ants live in decaying logs and stumps, or in decayed spots in both live and dead trees. Van Pelt has found this species to be rare in the Blue Ridge Mountains at altitudes from 4,100 to 4,500 feet. Colonies vary from a few hundred to several thousand individuals. The species appears to be more common in the northern section of its range. Its feeding habits and economic importance are quite similar to those of *fulva*.

References: Wheeler, 1905b, pp. 373, 383; Gaige, 1914, pp. 3-5, 11-13; Wheeler, 1926, pp. 114, 447-448, 450; Dennis, 1938, pp. 287-288, 305; Gregg, 1944, pp. 456, 465; Van Pelt, 1963, p. 212.

Aphaenogaster fulva Roger

This native species ranges from Nebraska to Vermont south to Colorado and Florida.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *lamellidens*.
Specific characters: Workers 3.5-5.8 mm. long. *A. fulva* is distinguished from the other species of *Aphaenogaster* by the shape of the

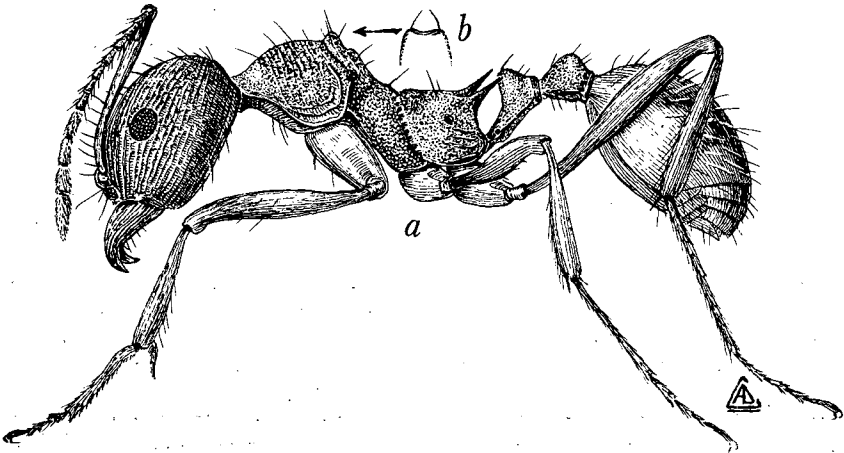


Figure 8.—*Aphaenogaster fulva* Roger: a, Lateral view of worker; b, posterodorsal view of the strongly projecting anterior border of the mesonotum which is cleft or impressed in the center.