



Figure 11.—*Pheidole dentata* Mayr, lateral view of worker.

variable length, some unusually long. Body color light brown to dark brown.

Biology and Economic Importance

This is an especially common species of *Pheidole* in the Southern States. The ants form small to large colonies in the exposed soil or under the cover of objects such as stones, logs, wood, or debris; they also nest in rotting wood. Their natural food is largely live and dead insects, seeds, and honeydew. Vickery found that workers of *dentata* have the same relation to *Anuraphis maidiradicis* (Forbes) in cotton-fields as do workers of *bicarinata vinelandica*. This ant is probably an intermediate host of the domestic fowl tapeworm *Raillietina tetragona* (Molin) since workers have been seen to carry gravid segments of the tapeworm into their nest. In houses, the ants are known to feed on meats, grease, liver, molasses, peanut butter, and fruit juices; it is believed that they have a preference for high-protein foods.

References: Vickery, 1910, pp. 102, 105, 116; Mitchell and Pierce, 1912, p. 71; Dennis, 1938, pp. 281, 304; Case and Ackert, 1940, pp. 393-395; Cole, 1940, p. 44; Hess, 1958, pp. 31-32, 55-59, 62-64; Van Pelt, 1958, pp. 14-15.

Crematogaster ashmeadi Mayr

A native species, which ranges from Texas east to Virginia and Florida. It is a strictly southern or southeastern species.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Monomorphic. Head subquadrate or subrectangular. Antenna 11-segmented, with a 3-segmented club. Frontal carinae placed far apart, subparallel, partly concealing antennal insertions. Thorax short, stout. Mesoepinotal region with a pronounced constriction. Epinotum with a pair of spines of variable size and shape. Abdominal pedicel of two segments, the petiole and postpetiole. Petiole trapezoidal, broadest anteriorly (fig. 12,b). Postpetiole dorsally with a longitudinal impression or furrow, which