

which is smooth and shiny. Epinotal spines long and divergent, straight or occasionally curved, acute apically. Pubescence long, sub-erect, and relatively dense, at least on head and thorax; admixed with long erect hairs, especially on head and anterior part of thorax. Body color varying from a yellowish or very light brown through brown to blackish.

### Biology and Economic Importance

The ants nest in moderate to large colonies in cane stems, branches, trees, and rotten stumps and logs. Buren, in unpublished data, says favorite habitats are flatwoods, swamps, and marshes. As in most species of *Crematogaster*, workers feed largely on honeydew and the flesh of live and dead insects. The ants are known to nest in the woodwork of houses, and to infest household foods. Like *ashmeadi*, they are almost omnivorous but seem to show a slight preference for sweets and meat. They can cause short circuits in telephone wires by removing the rubber insulation. Workers have been reported to have killed newly hatched birds.

*References:* Smith, 1924, p. 80; Dennis, 1938, pp. 272, 274, 283, 304; Cole, 1940, pp. 29, 47.

### *Crematogaster lineolata* (Say)

This species occurs in southern Canada and ranges south along the Rocky Mountains and east to Florida. It has sometimes been called the lined acrobatic ant. Various species of *Crematogaster* have been misdetermined as *lineolata* in our earlier literature.

### Taxonomic Characters

*Subfamily and generic characters:* Same as for *ashmeadi*. *Specific characters:* Workers 2.5–3.5 mm. long. Occiput and vertex of head occasionally punctulate, subopaque. Scape when fully extended noticeably surpassing posterior border of head. Dorsum of thorax sub-

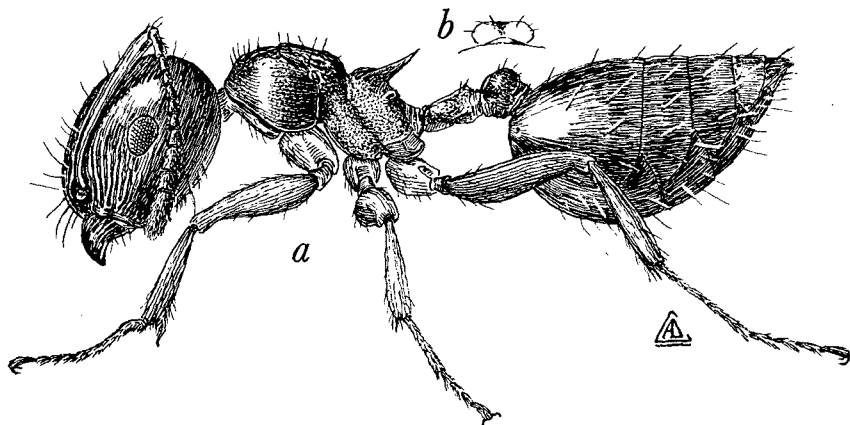


Figure 15.—*Crematogaster lineolata* (Say): a, Lateral view of worker; b, posterodorsal view of postpetiole.