

opaque or opaque; promesonotum typically roughly sculptured, bearing coarse longitudinal rugae or striae, interspersed with punctures. Sides of thorax sculptured, subopaque. Erect hairs on dorsum of thorax coarse or bristlelike, moderately numerous, and rather well distributed. Mesonotum with median carina. Mesoepinotal impression well defined. Epinotal spines normally rather long and divergent, straight or occasionally curved. Pubescence short and closely appressed. Body color ranging from light brown through dark brown to blackish. This common and widely distributed species can be readily distinguished by its pilosity, pubescence, and sculpture.

Biology and Economic Importance

This species nests in moderately large to large colonies in exposed soil or under stones and other objects, and in logs, stumps, and dead trees. Van Pelt records the species nesting in the Blue Ridge Mountains in occasional colonies at altitudes of 3,500 to 5,500 feet. Workers feed largely on honeydew obtained from honeydew-excreting insects, and on live and dead insects. They have been recorded as predators of winged termites, the immature stages of the cotton boll weevil, grape curculio, and codling moth. When alarmed, workers bite fiercely, and give off a repulsive odor. Males and winged females have been observed in the nest or emerging from the nest from mid June to late September. Like other species of *Crematogaster*, *lineolata* nests in the woodwork of houses, and also infests household foods. Although largely omnivorous, *lineolata* seems to show a slight preference for sweets and meats, or foods of a high protein content. The ants sometimes occupy the nests of wood-nesting wasps.

References: Wheeler, 1905b, pp. 378-379; Wheeler, 1906b, pp. 1-18; Davis and Bequaert, 1922, p. 8; Dennis, 1933, p. 282; Cole, 1940, pp. 29, 46-47; Wesson and Wesson, 1940, p. 93; Van Pelt, 1963, p. 212.

Monomorium minimum (Buckley)

Little black ant. This is a native species, which ranges throughout southeastern Canada and the northern and eastern sections of the United States. Its range in western North America has not yet been accurately delimited. In our literature, this species was formerly and incorrectly called *minutum* Mayr, or a subspecies of *minutum*.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Monomorphic. Head distinctly longer than broad. Antenna 12-segmented, with well-defined, 3-segmented club. Frontal carinae short, not close together, partly concealing the antennal insertions. Clypeus with a pair of longitudinal carinae which are often extended beyond the anterior margin of the clypeus as more or less distinct teeth. Prothorax with rounded humeri. Promesonotal suture absent or obsolescent. Mesoepinotal region with well-defined constriction. Epinotum unarmed. Abdominal pedicel composed of two segments, the petiole and postpetiole. Gaster usually with distinct basal angles (best seen from above). Sting present but not always exerted. *Specific characters:* Workers 1.5-2 mm. long. Body almost entirely smooth and shiny except for