



Figure 17.—*Monomorium pharaonis* (Linnaeus), Pharaoh ant, lateral view of worker.

especially common in hotels, large apartment houses, groceries, or other places where food is commercially handled. It is believed that on numerous occasions in our earlier literature the Pharaoh ant was confused with the thief ant *Solenopsis molesta*.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *minimum*. *Specific characters:* Workers monomorphic, approximately 2 mm. long. Each segment of antennal club gradually increasing in size toward the apex of club. Clypeal carinae rather weakly defined. Pair of teeth on the anterior border of clypeus absent or obsolescent. Eye comparatively small, with approximately 6–8 ommatidia in its greatest diameter. Prothorax with subangular shoulders. Thorax with well-defined mesoepinotal impression. Erect hairs on body sparse. Pubescence of body sparse, closely appressed. Head, thorax, petiole, and postpetiole densely but weakly punctulate, dull, or subopaque; the clypeus, gaster, and mandibles shiny. Body color ranging from yellowish or light brown to reddish. Gaster with varying amounts of infuscation, which is confined largely to apical portion.

Biology and Economic Importance

The ants normally nest in inaccessible places in buildings, where they undoubtedly breed continuously the year around, and produce prodigious numbers of individuals. For instance, in 2 years on his premises, Bellevoye captured 1,360,000 workers, 1,809 wingless females, 94 winged females, and 560 males. These figures do not account for the innumerable individuals he was unable to trap. Home owners have been known to consider selling their houses because of the ravages of this pest. A ship owner is known to have lost a great deal of time and spent \$4,000 in trying to eradicate these ants from his ship. Approximately 38 days are required for the development of the worker from egg to adult and 42 days for the development of the male and female. In houses, the ants often nest in such odd places as between sheets of stationery, layers of linens, and other abnormal places. In one instance, a person returning from an extended trip to the Canal Zone found a colony between clothing in his trunk. Practically omnivorous,