

workers attach themselves so firmly to clothing, and hold on for such long periods that the clothes can go to the laundry and be returned with the heads of the ants still attached.

*References:* McCook, 1879, pp. 33-40; Wheeler, 1907, pp. 729-742; Hunter, 1912, pp. 1-4; Snyder, 1937, pp. 14-17; Walter, Seaton, and Mathewson, 1938, pp. 1-18; Smith, 1939, pp. 1-11.

### *Iridomyrmex humilis* (Mayr)

Argentine ant. This species, which is native to Brazil and Argentina, has been widely distributed by commerce to numerous parts of the world. It was apparently brought into New Orleans on coffee ships from Brazil sometime before 1891 and spread rapidly over most of the Southern States. Largely confined to urban areas, *humilis* is now established in many localities in the Southern States, except Kentucky and Virginia. It also is widely distributed in California. Small localized infestations occur in St. Louis, Baltimore, and Chicago.

#### Taxonomic Characters

*Subfamily and generic characters:* Monomorphic. Antenna 12-segmented, without a club. Antennal fossa touching posterior border of clypeus. Eye placed well toward the median line of the head. Maxillary palpus neither long nor with unusually long third segment. Promesonotal suture distinct. Mesoeipinotal region with a strong constriction or impression. Abdominal pedicel composed of a single segment, the petiole. Petiolar scale well developed, inclined or suberect, usually easily seen in profile. Cloacal orifice ventral, transverse, slit-shaped, and without a fringe of hairs (fig. 31,co). Integument soft and flexible. *Specific characters:* Workers 2.2-2.6 mm. long. Body slender. Head oval or somewhat subtriangular. Clypeus distinctly broader than long, convex in middle, and with broad emargination on its anterior border. Eye well-developed, with approximately 12 to 14 ommatidia in its greatest diameter. Apex of scape noticeably surpassing posterior border of head. Mandible with two large apical teeth, followed by a number of small, irregular teeth or denticulae. In profile, promesonotum forms a long gentle unbroken arch in front of mesoeipinotal impression or constriction. Epinotum

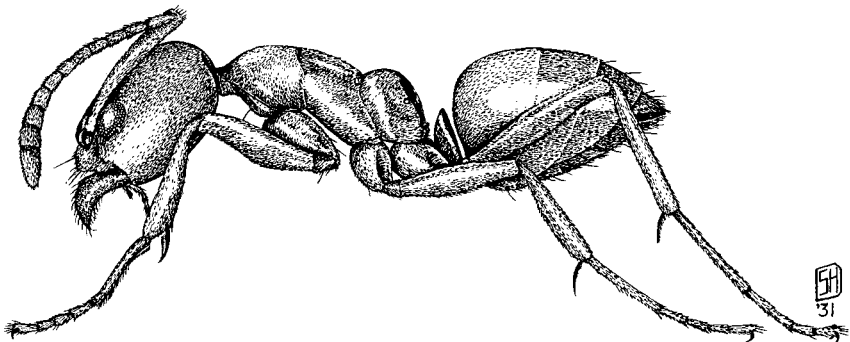


Figure 28.—*Iridomyrmex humilis* (Mayr), Argentine ant, lateral view of worker.