

Dorymyrmex pyramicus (Roger)

Pyramid ant. It is also known as the lion ant because of its aggressive habits. *D. pyramicus* is a native species, which ranges from Oregon to New York and south to California and Florida. Although this species is widely distributed over most of the United States, it is probably more common in the southern half. It has also been recorded from Mexico, South America, and the West Indies.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Workers monomorphic. Antennal fossa touching posterior border of clypeus. Antenna 12-segmented, without club. Eye placed well toward median line of head. Mandible with five to six teeth, the apical tooth very long and pointed. Maxillary palpus unusually long, 6-segmented; third segment approximately as long as combined lengths of fourth, fifth, and sixth. Ventral surface of head with a weakly developed psammophore. Thorax with distinct promesonotal and mesoepinotal sutures. Posterodorsal surface of epinotum conical or tuberculiform. Legs long and slender. Abdominal pedicel composed of a single segment, the petiole. Petiole well developed, scalelike, suberect to erect, narrow or thin in profile. Base of gaster with an impression. Cloacal orifice ventral, transverse, slitshaped, without a fringe of hairs (fig. 31, co). Sting lacking. Anal glands present, producing a characteristic disagreeable, rotten-coconut odor. Integument soft, flexible. *Specific characters:* Workers approximately 3 mm. long. Mesonotum in profile forming a perceptible angle anterior to the mesoepinotal suture. Body hairs sparse, thorax usually without erect hairs. Pubescence fairly dense on thorax and gaster, causing these regions in some lights to appear subopaque and in other lights to be noticeably shiny. Body color highly variable, ranging from almost uniform light brown to uniform dark brown or blackish, with gaster frequently darker than head and thorax.

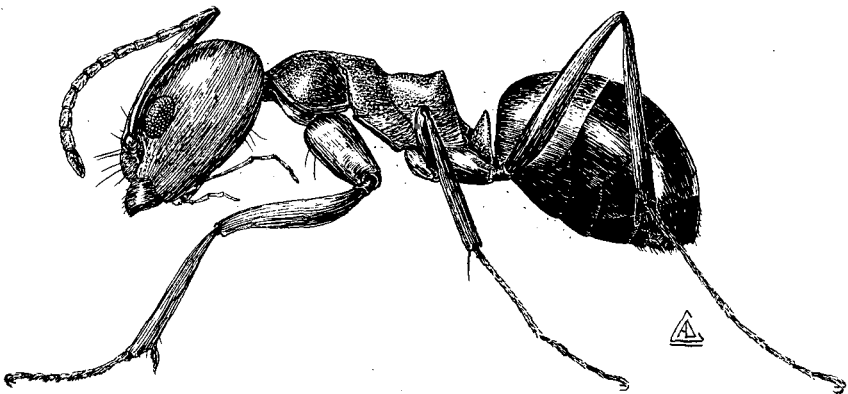


Figure 30.—*Dorymyrmex pyramicus* (Roger), pyramid ant, lateral view of worker.