



Figure 38.—*Camponotus caryae discolor* (Buckley): *a*, Lateral view of worker; *b*, frontal view of clypeus showing the emargination or impression at the middle of its anterior border.

### Taxonomic Characters

*Subfamily and generic characters:* Polymorphic. Antenna 12-segmented, without a club. Antennal fossa not touching the posterior border of the clypeus. Middle of the anterior border of the clypeus with a distinct but narrow emargination or impression (fig. 38,*b*). Clypeus weakly carinate or almost ecarinate. Each middle and hind tibia without a row of bristles on their flexor surface. Abdominal pedicel composed of a single segment, the petiole. Cloacal orifice terminal, circular, surrounded by a fringe of hairs (fig. 48,*co*). Sting lacking. Workers capable of emitting a distinct formic acid odor. *Specific characters:* Workers 3.5–7.5 mm. long. Head, thorax, and petiole yellowish red or reddish, the gaster blackish or black. Anterior portion of head, especially cheeks and clypeus, punctulate, subopaque; clypeus and especially cheeks with elongate, piligerous foveolae. Closely resembles *Camponotus rasilis* Wheeler but can be distinguished from that species by the peculiarly sculptured and more subopaque anterior portion of head and by the short, erect hairs of clypeus and cheeks. Body of *discolor* is usually lighter, more yellowish, and smaller than that of *rasilis*.

### Biology and Economic Importance

The biology of this ant is so similar to that of *rasilis* that it hardly requires further comment here. On several occasions the ants were collected under conditions that clearly indicate they were nesting in houses. There they are potentially capable of nesting in preformed or natural cavities, or in rotting or faulty wood. It is doubtful that their excavating activities could cause any appreciable damage because of the small size of the ants, and the small colonies. I have no records of household foods being infested by the workers.

*References:* Mitchell and Pierce, 1912, pp. 75–76; Wesson and Wesson, 1940, p. 103; Hess, 1958, pp. 47–48, 56, 58–59.