

Camponotus nearcticus Emery

A native species, *nearcticus* ranges from North Dakota to Ontario, south to Colorado and Florida. Creighton states that the species has a discontinuous distribution, and occurs from British Columbia to California and eastward to Idaho. Unfortunately, from 1917 to 1940 the species was confused in our literature with *caryae* (Fitch), a much less common species but one with somewhat similar habits and appearance.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *caryae discolor*.
Specific characters: Workers 4.5–7.5 mm. long. Clypeus with rather large foveolae which bear suberect or erect hairs; foveolae of cheeks smaller and more numerous but not bearing suberect or erect hairs. Scape without erect hairs, except at apex. Legs entirely or almost entirely without hairs except at apices of segments. Petiolar node narrow in profile, the anterior surface moderately convex, posterior surface flattened. Body pubescence sparse, scattered, closely appressed and not concealing the surface; most abundant and easily seen on gaster. Body of typical form blackish or black but color subject to considerable variation; occasionally some of the segments or areas of body largely reddish or brownish. Body shiny, the head least, the gaster most. Typical form easily recognized by its black and rather shiny body, emarginate clypeus, and lack of erect hairs on cheeks.

Biology and Economic Importance

C. nearcticus is not only one of the most widely distributed species of the subgenus *Myrmentoma* discussed here, but also one of the most common. The ants of this subgenus, which are smaller (3–7 mm.) than most *Camponotus*, are distinguished especially by the emargination or impression at the middle of the anterior border of the clypeus. Most of the known forms are eastern.

Under natural conditions *nearcticus* forms small colonies of less than a hundred to several hundred individuals in dead twigs and branches of trees, in or beneath the bark of dead and live trees, in

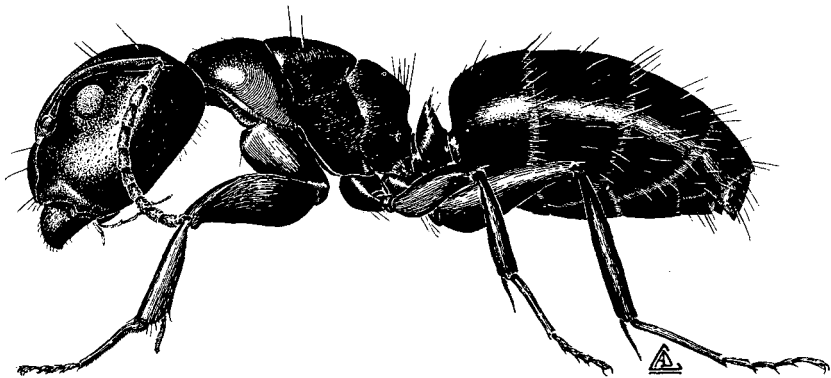


Figure 39.—*Camponotus nearcticus* Emery, lateral view of worker.