

insect galls, pine cones, beneath the bark of logs and stumps, hollow stems of plants, and in wooden posts. The species will also accept hollow wooden traps designed for certain wasps. Nests have been noted especially in such trees as pine, oak, and hickory. Although mainly a lowland form, the species has been collected at altitudes of approximately 6,000 feet. It is not known when the males and winged females are produced, but there is abundant evidence to indicate that these forms overwinter in the parental nest; they no doubt make their nuptial flights the following year. Kanno'ski states that recently mated females seek cavities in which to start new colonies. These females establish their nest independently of aid from workers. The timid, hard-to-capture workers crawl over trees and shrubs in search of honeydew for food, a diet which is largely supplemented by dead insects. They forage both day and night. On numerous occasions I have received all castes of this ant from houses, where they have been found nesting in the woodwork, especially in the roofing; the owners of such premises have especially mentioned the moistness of the nesting sites. Since housekeepers have seldom complained of the ants infesting household foods, I assume the ants are of minor importance in this respect.

References: Wheeler, 1905b, pp. 402-403; Smith, 1924, p. 125; Cole, 1940, pp. 15, 29, 83; Van Pelt, 1958, pp. 44-45; Kanno'ski, 1959, pp. 119-120, 134.

Camponotus rasilis Wheeler

A native species which ranges from Nebraska south to Texas, South Carolina, and Florida. The species is apparently most common in the Gulf Coast States where it is more abundant than either *nearcticus* or *caryae discolor*.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *caryae discolor*.
Specific characters: Workers 4-9 mm. long. Cheeks and clypeus with distinct but not unusually large or coarse foveolae; foveolae on cheeks

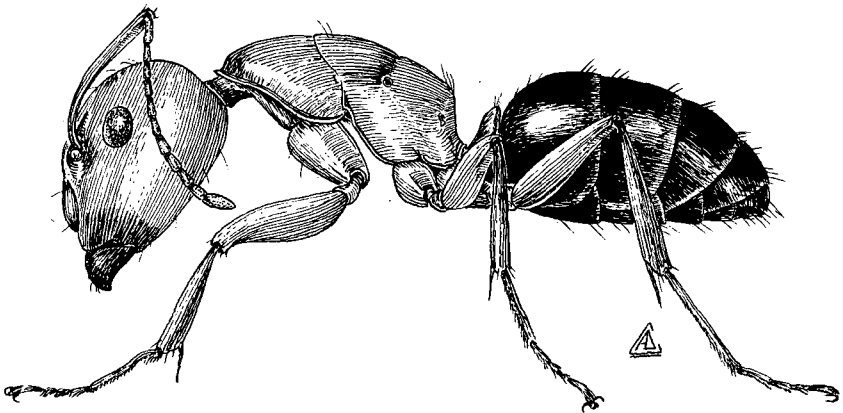


Figure 40.—*Camponotus rasilis* Wheeler, lateral view of worker.