

Workers are known to gather small seeds of such crops as lettuce and tobacco from seed beds. In sections of our country subject to very cold weather or pronounced winters, the ants nest in apartment and hotel buildings, where they are potential pests the year around. Workers feed on many household foods such as meats, grease, sweets, fruits, and vegetables, and on liquids, such as fountain syrup and soft drinks. The ants seem especially fond of sweets. It was reported that one soda fountain in Florida discontinued business because of the ravages of this pest.

References: Wroughton, 1892a, pp. 41-42; Phillips, 1934, pp. 18-19; Smith, 1936, pp. 869-870; Smith, 1950, pp. 289-290; Pimentel, 1955, pp. 28-30; Fox and Garcia-Moll, 1961, pp. 1065-1066.

Paratrechina (Nylanderia) spp.

This heading includes mostly native species, with a few that have been introduced. Ants of this subgenus are widely distributed over the hot and temperate regions of the World. Their distribution in the United States is still poorly known, but better understood east of 100° longitude. Males and their associated genitalia afford the only reliable means of identifying these ants to species. The species can seldom be identified on the basis of workers alone; however, should the reader wish to attempt such determinations, he is referred to Creighton (1950, pp. 404, 405-410).

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *longicornis* except as follows: Length 2.2-4 mm. Apex of scape exceeding posterior border of head by at least one-fifth or more of the length of the scape. Scape of most species usually with noticeable, prominent, suberect to erect hairs. Antennal fossa very close to, or touching, posterior border of clypeus. Eye well developed. Clypeus carinate or subcarinate. Thorax somewhat stout. Mesonotum more or less distinctly separated

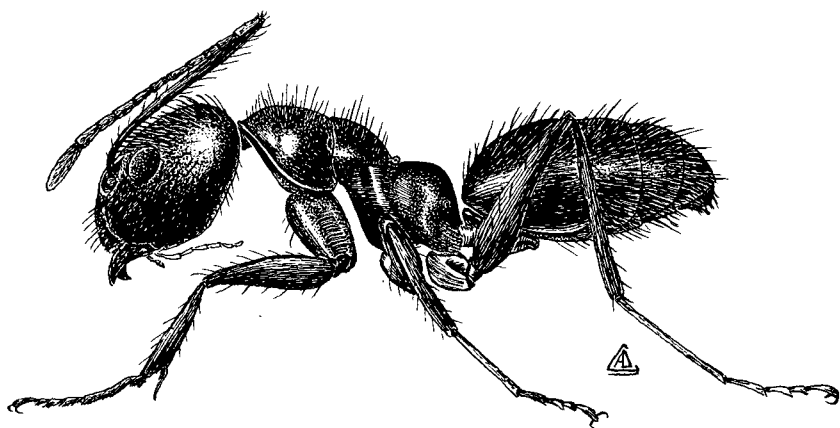


Figure 42.—*Paratrechina (Nylanderia) sp.*, lateral view of worker.