

Lasius alienus (Foerster)

Cornfield ant. This species has a discontinuous distribution in North America. According to Wilson, it ranges from British Columbia to northern California, and from North Dakota to Nova Scotia, south to Arkansas and northern Florida. The species also occurs in the mountains of southern Arizona. *L. alienus* appears to be sparse or absent in the southern Rockies and Great Basin, and is rare or locally distributed in the Gulf Coast States. This is the form that has passed in earlier American literature under the varietal or subspecific name *americanus* Emery. In America, it has been frequently confused with *Lasius neoniger* Emery (p. 81), which it resembles so closely that one must be very cautious in accepting literature records without knowing the full history.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Workers monomorphic. Antenna 12-segmented, without a club. Antennal fossa very close to, or touching, posterior border of clypeus. Frontal carinae not placed close to each other. Eye well developed, located closer to posterior border of the head than to base of mandible. Ocelli, if present, small and indistinct. Maxillary palpus long, 6-segmented, terminal segments of approximately the same length. Mesoepinotal impression well defined, bearing a pair of distinct spiracles. Declivity of epinotum more than twice as long as base of epinotum. Abdominal pedicel composed of a single segment, the petiole. Petiolar node scalelike, thin or narrow in profile, and either vertical or not strongly inclined. Cloacal orifice terminal, circular, surrounded by a fringe of hairs (fig. 48,co). Sting lacking. Integument soft and flexible. Workers active, not light-avoiding, and capable of emitting a strong formic acid odor. *Specific characters:* Workers approximately 2-2.5 mm. long. Penultimate and terminal basal teeth of mandible sub-

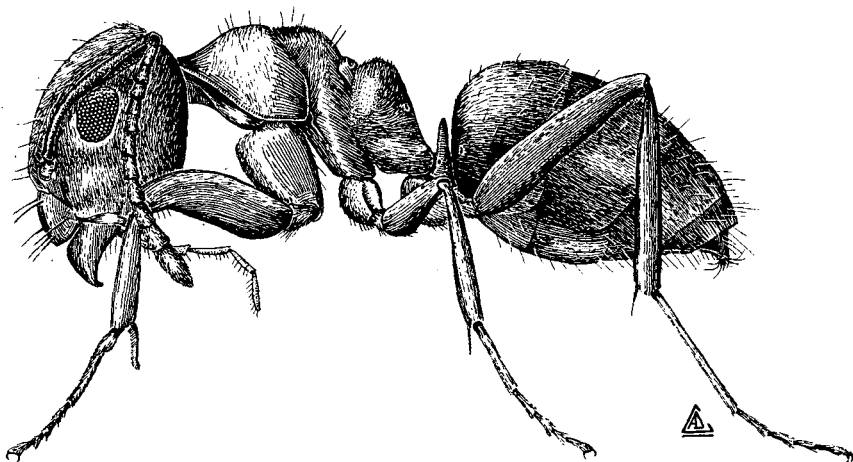


Figure 44.—*Lasius alienus* (Foerster), cornfield ant, lateral view of worker.