

broad. Anal papilla prominent. Legs very long; femora, tibiae and metatarsi dilated and compressed anteroposteriorly; remaining tarsal joints growing successively narrower.

Body and appendages smooth and shining, very finely and inconspicuously punctate. Pleurae and especially the sides of the epinotum more opaque and somewhat more coarsely punctate. Mandibles opaque, finely and shallowly striated.

Hairs yellowish, very short and sparse on the body, denser and more appressed on the flat surfaces of the legs, but absent on the

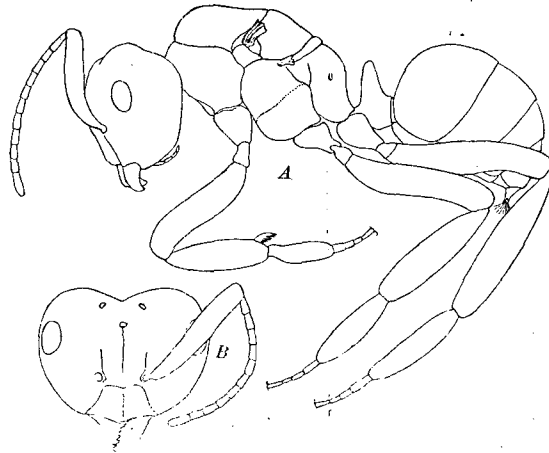


FIG. 1. A, *Lasius spathepus* sp. nov., dealeted female, B, head of same.

sharp dorsal and ventral edges of these appendages. Anterior border of clypeus with a row of short, stout bristles. Border of petiole and posterior edge of each gastric segment with a single row of short hairs. Circling of anal cilia long and coarse.

Body deep chestnut brown; scapes, legs and articulations of wings paler and more reddish; corners of clypeus and posterior borders of gastric segments sordid yellow.

This female may be at once distinguished from any of the known female *Lasii* by its peculiar heart-shaped head, short gaster and dilated and flattened metatarsi. The last character, in fact, is not met with in any other known ant, except *Melisso-tarsus*, which Emery regards as an aberrant Ponerine.

The supposition that *L. spathepus* may not be a new species, but merely an extraordinary female form of some one of the well-known Japanese *Lasii*, is supported by the following considerations. Many years ago Walsh¹ described an aberrant female

¹"On the Genera of Aphidæ found in the United States," *Proc. Ent. Soc. Phila.*, I., No. 9, 1862, pp. 294-311.