of the worker *fuliginosus* than the latter is like that of the European female of the species. If *spathepus* is an aberrant female *fuliginosus*, as seems not only possible, but probable, we must therefore assume either that this species in Japan has two females, comparable to the α- and β-females of *latipes*, or that it has only the β-female, while the α-female alone is retained in Europe.

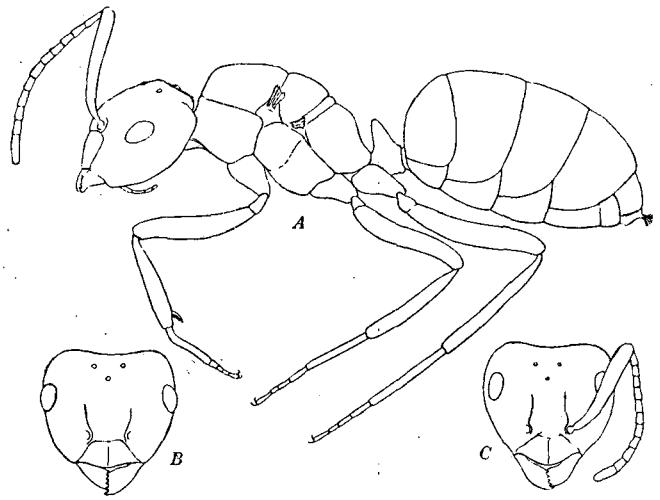

FIG. 2. *A*, *Lasius fuliginosus* Latr., deälated female; *B*, head of same; *C*, head of worker.

Evidently this question can be decided only by exhaustive observations in Japan.

The train of hypotheses suggested by *spathepus* is not terminated at this point. Recent investigations make us look with increasing interest on all aberrant female ants, for it has been found that certain species of *Formica*, *Aphænogaster* and *Bothriomyrmex* which have females either of unusually small size, glabrous integument, extraordinary color or pilosity, or with unusual morphological characters, also exhibit correlative ethological peculiarities. Such females, during the establishment of their formicaries, are, as a rule, temporary parasites on workers of allied species whose females retain the typical generic characters. The question therefore arises as to whether the aberrant female, which I have called *L. spathepus*, may not be a temporary parasite on some other more common species of *Lasius*. Here the suggestion that *spathepus* may be a β-female of *fuliginosus* receives a little support