

Viereck has described from New Mexico a new subspecies as *subumbratus*, and another subspecies, *vestitus*, from Idaho, is added in the present paper. This form may prove to be the hitherto unknown female of Emery's *L. speculiventris*, which, I believe, is merely a subspecies of *umbratus*.

All the various forms that constitute the species *umbratus* may be readily distinguished in the worker and female phases from the other species of *Lasius*, by the following peculiarities: the maxillary palpi are 6-jointed and this character places the species in the genus *Lasius sensu stricto* and removes it from the exclusively North American subgenus *Acanthomyops*, which includes species with 3-jointed maxillary palpi and a strong odor like that of lemon verbena or oil of citronella. The joints of the maxillary palpi in *umbratus* are not long and subequal as in *L. niger* and its various forms, but grow successively shorter towards the tip. It differs from our two other *Lasii* with yellow workers and diminishing maxillary joints (*L. flavus nearcticus* Wheeler and *L. brevicornis* Emery) in having the antennal scapes extending a considerable distance beyond the posterior corners of the head, the larger size of the eyes in the worker, and in being more or less tinged with brown in this phase. Moreover, the female *umbratus* has the head as broad as the thorax, whereas in *nearcticus* and *brevicornis* it is distinctly narrower. It is by no means easy to separate the various subspecies or races of *umbratus* on morphological characters, such as the size of the eyes of the worker, shape of the petiole of the worker and female, dentition of the mandibles of the male, etc., since these characters are rather inconstant. More satisfactory distinctions are furnished by peculiarities of stature, pubescence, pilosity and color.

Notwithstanding its wide distribution *L. umbratus* is by no means as common as other species of the genus. In North America however, it is much more frequently met with than in Eurasia; but even in our country it is sporadic, being abundant in certain localities and totally lacking in others. It prefers rather damp, shady spots like those occupied by *L. nearcticus* and the species of *Acanthomyops*. Like the species of this sub-genus it forms populous colonies under stones, in rotten stumps or logs or constructs large masonry dome nests. These dome nests I have seen only in meadows or in clearings in the woods where the soil is covered