"14. Either the genal margins of the worker seen in full face with standing hairs prominent above the ground pubescence; or else the longest hairs of the posterior half of the first gastric tergite (exclusive of the extreme posterior strip) are distinctly less than half as long as the maximum width of the hind tibia at its midlength. In the queen the head width is about the same as the width of the thorax just anterior to the tegulae or greater..... ..... *umbratus* (Nylander) or *rabaudi* (Bondroit)

Genal margins of worker seen in full face lacking standing hairs; the longest hairs of the posterior half of the first gastric tergite (exclusive of the extreme posterior strip) at least half as long as the maximum width of the hind tibia at its midlength. In the queen the head width is much less than the width of the thorax just anterior to the tegulae..... *flavus* (Fabricius").

It will be noted that Wilson here uses an important diagnostic character, namely the relative length of the semi-erect hairs on the back of the abdomen. This appears to have been ignored by earlier writers and much facilitates the ready distinction between *umbratus* forms lacking standing appendage hairs and large workers of *flavus* which are sometimes superficially rather similar.

Distribution of *Lasius fuliginosus* Latreille

The difficulty of certain distinction between workers of the two species is alluded to by O'Rourke (1950) but can now be simply resolved by examining the worker in question in profile when the very short hairs particularly of the *mixtus* form contrast with the much longer abdominal hairs of *flavus*. For other members of the British *Lasius* the keys of Donisthorpe are adequate enough and more easily followed. As already pointed out there is unfortunately no way of keying out *rabaudi* males and workers from *umbratus* and queens are essential. Since *rabaudi* has standing appendage hairs, however, there can be no confusion between it and the *mixtus* form of *umbratus*.