

synonymized with *Leptothorax* by Snelling (1986), subgenus *Nesomyrmex* by Kempf (1959) and synonymized by Bolton (1982), and the genus *Formicoxenus* by Francoeur and Loisel (1985), and North American *Dichothorax* by Mackay (1993a), also synonymized by Bolton (1982). Partial keys to the subgenus *Myrafant* have been presented by Smith (1952) and Cole (1958a), which was suggested as a synonym by Brown (1973) and Bolton (1982). A number of new species have been described since 1950, and the existence of only partial keys, has made this subgenus one of the most difficult of the North American groups for species identification.

The objectives of this paper are to describe 25 new species of the subgenus from the New World, present revised, illustrated keys for the identification of the workers, and to provide illustrations of all of the species, based primarily on type material. The biology of each of the species is summarized, based on more than 30 years of collecting in the United States and more than 17 years in México. Identification of the species is difficult and two independent keys are included to facilitate identification. A third key is included for the identification of the species in Mexico. There are still many undescribed species to be expected, especially in México. If the 2 keys lead to different species, it is likely that a new species is involved.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Specimens were borrowed from several institutions and curators as follows:

AMNH American Museum of Natural History, Mark Smethurst

CASC California Academy of Sciences, Darell Ubick, Wojciech Pulawski, Robert Zuparko

CIDA Albertson College of Idaho Collection, Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, Idaho, William Clark

CWEM William and Emma Mackay collection, University of Texas, El Paso

FMNH Field Museum of Natural History, Philip Parillo

EMAU Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Universität Greifswald, G. Müller-Motzfeld (Mayr Collection) Germany

MCSN Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Valter Raineri (Emery Collection) (Italy)

MCZC Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Stefan Cover

MHNG Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Genève, I. Löbl (Forel Collection) (Switzerland)

UNAM Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de