

postpetiole usually nodiform, without ventral process.

Usually with few erect hairs, which are thickened, even spatulate, decumbent pubescence sparse.

Most species drab colored, ranging from yellow to brown to black, occasionally bicolored red and black. Sculpture of most species is rough, the dorsum of head may be glossy, shiny, mesosoma nearly always roughly sculptured, gaster usually polished and shiny, but may have fine sculpture.

Female: Similar to worker, except usually larger, eyes larger, ocelli present (rarely present in workers) and mesosoma modified for flight. Propodeal spines usually shorter and thicker than in worker.

Male: Similar in size to worker or smaller, ocelli well developed, compound eyes large; head usually broader than long; antennae with 12 or 13 segments; scape short, funiculus long; mesosoma modified for flight; propodeal armature usually poorly developed, sometimes being simply raised areas.

Subgenus *Myrafant* Resurrected Status

Leptothorax subgenus *Myrafant* M. Smith, 1950:29-30; D. Smith, 1979:1391-1395; Kempf, 1972:132.

Type species: *Leptothorax curvispinosus* (designated by M. Smith, 1950:30)

Diagnosis: All castes similar to the descriptions above, except clypeus with at least one medial, longitudinal carina, usually with several lateral carinae. The scapes never have erect hairs and rarely have suberect hairs. Body hairs tend to be very sparse, coarse and erect. The petiolar peduncle is nearly always short.

Distribution: New World species of this subgenus are found in from southern Canada south to Guatemala. They appear to be most diverse in southwestern United States and México.

Discussion: Gregg (1953) protested the establishment of *Myrafant* as a subgenus; Brown (1973) synonymized *Myrafant* with *Leptothorax*, providing no details. Bolton (1982) followed Brown in considering *Myrafant* a synonym. Bolton (1995) later suggested caution as the Formicoxenini is currently a tangle of species, and some of them may even merit generic status. *Myrafant* is currently a group of easily distinguished ants (at least in the New World) which deserves to remain separated, at least until a thorough analysis of the Tribe is completed. Biologically the two subgenera are different, with the subgenus *Leptothorax* generally being found at higher elevations and latitudes, often found in the nests of other ant species, whereas *Myrafant* is more common at lower elevations and latitudes, rarely nesting with other