

complex, *silvestrii* complex (although the 2 members have 11 and 12 segmented antennae), and even the large *tricarinatus* group, which is based on the form of the clypeal carinae. Some complexes contain a single species, but seem to be so distinct that they should be in a separate group. These include the *striatulus* complex and the *obturator* complex.

Leptothorax is a difficult genus of ants to identify to species. Hopefully this additional key will make identification of more of the species possible. It may be easier to use that the key based on morphological characters, or will at least make accurate identifications more certain. Many species remain to be discovered, especially in México. If the two keys lead to different identifications, it is possible that you are dealing with an undescribed species.

KEY TO THE SPECIES COMPLEXES, BASED PRIMARILY ON WORKERS

1. Large ants (total length of worker over 3mm); petiole with long peduncle (Fig. 114) *hispidus* species complex
- Smaller (total length less than 3mm); petiole with short peduncle (Fig. 51) 2
- 2(1). Propodeum without spines or angles (Fig. 9); México *striatulus* species complex
- Propodeum with spines or at least angles (Fig. 4); widely distributed 3
- 3(2). Propodeal spines united by a carina (Fig. 43); Texas *obturator* species complex
- Propodeal spines not united by a carina; widely distributed 4
- 4(3). Clypeus with 3 well defined carina, 1 medial and two lateral, in addition to several finer carinae (Fig. 111), lateral carinae converging anteriorly *tricarinatus* species complex
- Clypeus with medial carina and several lateral carinae that are all more or less equally well defined, and are nearly parallel (Fig. 86) 5
- 5(4). Petiolar node sharp as seen in profile (Fig 29) *nitens* species complex
- Petiolar node blunt (rounded or truncate) in profile (Fig. 4) 6
- 6(5). Petiolar node truncate in profile (Fig. 17) 7
- Petiolar node round in profile (Fig. 28) 8
- 7(6). Node of petiole nearly square as seen in profile (Fig. 17); concolorous light brown; antenna with 11 or 12 segments *silvestrii* species complex
- Node of petiole not square as seen in profile (Fig. 70); dark brown or