

nitens species complex

Members of this species complex can be recognized by the sharp apex of the petiolar node and that the propodeal spines are usually poorly developed. The medial clypeal carina is poorly developed and not more prominent than the numerous lateral carinae. Most species have a 12-segmented antenna. This complex includes *L. maryanae*, *L. mariposa*, *L. melinus*, *L. nitens*, *L. oxynodis*, *L. rugosus* and *L. stollii*. Three species in the *tricarinatus* complex, *L. adustus*, *L. chandleri*, and *L. coleenae*, are included in the key as the sharp node of the petiole may cause them to be confused with members of this species complex. They are indicated by asterisks.

KEY TO THE WORKERS OF THE SPECIES OF THE NITENS COMPLEX

1. Dorsum of head predominantly smooth and shining (Fig. 22, left)
- Dorsum of head predominantly sculptured (Fig. 22, right), occasionally central strip free of sculpture 5
- 2(1). Scapes extending to occipital corners (Fig. 22, left); anterior medial border of clypeus strongly concave (Fig. 173), crenulated with teeth that terminate carinae on clypeus; Guatemala
- Scapes not reaching occipital corners; anterior medial border of clypeus weakly concave and not crenulated 3
- 3(2). Dorsum of mesosoma usually smooth and shining (Fig. 34, left)
- *nitens* Emery
- Dorsum of mesosoma coarsely punctured (at least propodeum) (Fig. 34, right) 4
- 4(3). Posterior face of petiole with fine rugulae (Fig. 33, right); common and widely distributed in western North America
- *mariposa* Wheeler
- Posterior face of petiole punctate (Fig. 33, left); New Mexico
- *melinus* new species
- 5(1). Antenna with 11 segments (Fig. 11, right)
- *oxynodis* new species
- Antenna with 12 segments (Fig. 11, left) 6
- 6(5). Propodeal spines developed (Fig. 34, right); California and north-eastern México
- Propodeal armature consisting of simple angles (Fig. 35, left); western North America 8
- 7(6). Side of pronotum punctate (Fig. 129) (top with rugae—Fig. 130); California
- *maryanae* new species