

- between bases (Fig. 73) *curvispinosus* Mayr
 — Propodeal spines shorter, length about equal to distance between
 bases (Fig. 73) *ambiguus* Emery

silvestrii species complex

The *silvestrii* species complex appears to be the most plesiomorphic in the subgenus, and possesses a number of characteristics that link this subgenus to the Tetramoriini. These characters include a raised area on the lateral surfaces of the clypeus, directly anterior to the insertions of the antennae. It is not as developed as it is in *Tetramorium*, but it is more developed than in other members of the subgenus *Myrafant*. The maxillary palps have 5 segments, the labial palps have 3 segments, as other members of *Leptothorax*, which clearly demonstrates the proper placement of *L. silvestrii* in *Leptothorax*. Additionally, the mandible has 5 teeth, as in most other *Leptothorax*. The propodeal spines are long and well developed, whereas they are usually short in the remainder of the subgenus. The node of the petiole is quadrate or subquadrate as in *Tetramorium*, not rounded or with a sharp apex in most of the species of *Myrafant*. These ants are larger than is typical for *Myrafant* and are coarsely sculptured with rugae, characters it shares with *Tetramorium*. Although *L. silvestrii* was once considered a member of *Tetramorium*, it is clearly a *Leptothorax*, especially when one considers the closely related *L. smithi*. This complex includes *L. silvestrii* and *L. smithi*, which can be easily separated as *L. silvestrii* is from Arizona, has a 12-segmented antenna, and has roughened sculpture on the dorsum of the gaster whereas *L. smithi* is found in eastern US, has a 11-segmented antenna, and has a smooth and glossy gastral surface. *Leptothorax rugosus*, a member of the *nitens* complex, may be related as it also has the incrassate femur with a weakly sculptured gaster. It can be separated from the other two by the sharp petiolar apex (Fig. 160).

striatulus species complex

Leptothorax striatulus Stütz, the only species in this complex, can be recognized as it lacks spines or even angles on the propodeum (Fig. 9).

tricarinatus species complex

This species complex can be recognized by the 3 prominent carinae (Fig. 111) on the clypeus (1 medial and 2 lateral). The lateral carinae on the clypeus somewhat converge anteriorly. The area between the medial carina and the lateral carinae is usually smooth and glossy. There are usually additional finer carinae on the clypeus (Fig. 111).