

MEXICO, Chihuahua: Municipio. Janos, 7KS San Lorenzo, 18 May 1982, W & E. Mackay.

Material examined: Type series, collection numbers 5872, 5873 and 5874, and New Mexico, Taos Co., Ojo Caliente, 28-vi-1986, W&E Mackay # 7962 (10 workers CWEM).

Etiymology: From Latin, *adustus* for brown, as all castes of this species are concolorous brown.

Discussion: This species is a member of the *nitens* species complex, and can be easily distinguished by characters in the key and in the diagnosis. The sculpturing on the head nearly completely covers the dorsum of the head, which may result in this species being misidentified as *L. rugithorax*. It can be distinguished on the basis of the distribution (*L. rugithorax* is from the state of Hidalgo) and that the apex of the petiole is sharp (blunt and rounded in *L. rugithorax*).

Biology: All three series were collected under and in the bark of a single branch of a live cottonwood tree (*Populus fremontii*), at a height of about 3 meters from the ground; the specimens are likely all from the same nest. The specimens were collected in parts of the tree damaged by other insects, although the tree was very healthy. The habitat was riparian on the side of the Santa Maria River. The additional specimens from near Taos were collected loose on a large cottonwood tree, in a riparian area at a flat area near the road.

Leptothorax (Myrafant) ambiguus Emery

Figs. 73, 74, 76 & 82; Map 2

Leptothorax curvispinosus ambiguus Emery, 1895:320, worker, Hill City, South Dakota (designated by Creighton, 1950:262); Wheeler, 1903a:241, Plate 12, Fig. 11; *Leptothorax ambiguus*: Wessen & Wessen, 1940:97. female, male; Buren, 1944:287; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1955:22 larvae; *Leptothorax (Myrafant) ambiguus*: Smith, 1979:1392

Species complex: *schaumii*

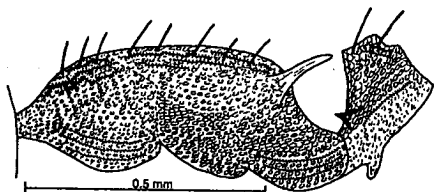


Fig. 82. Mesosoma and petiole of a worker of *Leptothorax ambiguus* (NY).

Diagnosis: Members of this species are usually light yellow or orange, roughly sculptured ants with an 11-segmented antenna. The head is covered with striae, leaving only a narrow, medial region free of sculpture and shining. The propodeal spines are nearly straight, with a length of about the distance