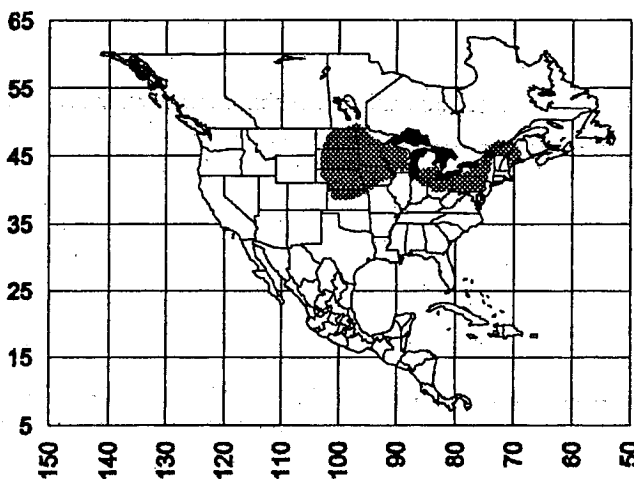


between the bases. The petiole is obliquely truncate as seen in profile (Fig. 82).

Distribution: USA: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York; Canada: Manitoba, Quebec (Map 2).

Type series: AMNH, MCZC, USNM, MCSN [seen].



Map 2. Distribution of *Leptothorax ambiguus*.

Discussion: This species is not likely to be confused with any of the others. It generally has long propodeal spines as in some of the other species, but can be separated from *L. longispinosus* by the roughly sculptured head and from *L. curvispinosus* as the propodeal spines are widely separated at the base, and shorter than those of *L.*

*curvispinosus* (Fig. 73). Wesson and Wesson (1940) provide more details for separating these 2 species, including characters for the sexuals. There are three subspecies (*ambiguus ambiguus* Emery, *ambiguus foveatus* M. Smith and *ambiguus pinetorum* Wesson and Wesson), that can be separated with difficulty using characters listed in Creighton (1950). They will probably be considered synonyms when more material becomes available.

Biology: Wesson and Wesson (1940), Gregg (1944) and Talbot (1965) discuss the biology of this species. It nests in soil, in dead stems in clumps of grasses and herbs, in galls, in hollow twigs, etc. in many habitats, including slightly exposed sites or in low wet fields, flood-plain forests and meadows (Wesson and Wesson, 1940; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1963; DuBois, 1985). It also occurs in woodlands (Wheeler, 1903a; Talbot, 1934; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1963), but never nests in logs (Gregg, 1944), although it may be found in wood partially buried in the soil (Wheeler and Wheeler, 1963). It occurs as far north as Manitoba (Wheeler, et. al., 1989). The nest population size is moderate with 6-106 workers and up to 14 alates per nest. This species is