

Fig. 89. Petiole and postpetiole of the holotype worker of *Leptothorax bestelmeyeri*, as seen from above.

face straight, posterior face convex, petiolar node moderately sharp in profile (Fig. 87).

Erect, blunt hairs scattered on most surfaces, up to 0.12mm in length, legs and scapes with finer hairs, which are nearly decumbent.

Dorsum of head punctate with punctures forming costulae, dorsum of mesosoma with fine rugulae, sides similar to sculpture on head,

gaster smooth and polished, mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole (sides and dorsum) mostly punctured and rough, dorsum of gaster smooth and shining.

Concolorous pale yellow with black eyes.

Female and male: Unknown.

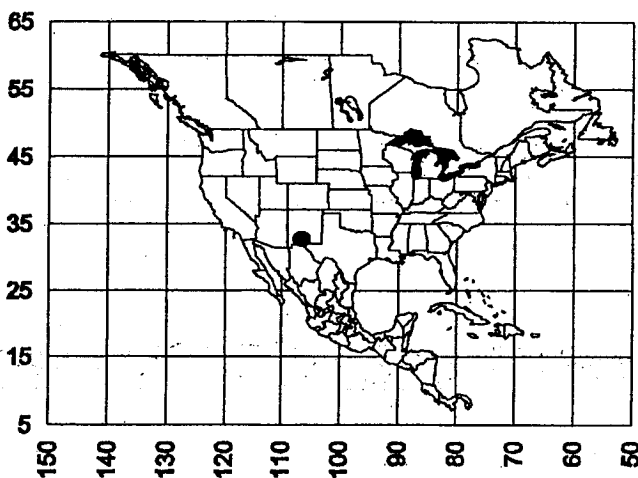
Type series: Holotype worker (MCZC), USA: New Mexico, Doña Ana Co. 37 k N Las Cruces, Jornada Experimental Range, 26 or 29-vii-1996, B. Bestelmeyer.

Material examined: One worker.

**Etymology:** Named in honor of Brandon Bestelmeyer, who collected the holotype, as well as other interesting *Leptothorax* specimens.

**Discussion:** This pale yellow ant with large, black eyes would be confused with few other species, except for *L. andersoni*, *L. cokendolpheri*, *L. liebi* and *L. coleenae* from the Chihuahuan Desert. See the discussion of *L. coleenae* for characteristics to separate these species. The large eyes would also separate it from *L. terrigena*, *L. furunculus*, and *L. andrei*.

**Biology:** The single worker was collected in a pitfall trap in a desert grassland.



Map 5. Distribution of *Leptothorax bestelmeyeri*.