

1940). Workers reproduce in queenright colonies (Frumhoff and Ward, 1992). Larvae are found within nests throughout the year (Headley, 1943; Talbot, 1957). Nests are polygynous (Alloway et al., 1982) and polydomous (Stuart, 1985, 1987a). The nest site may change after slight disturbances (Moeglich, 1978). The species is widely distributed in many different habitats, and is especially common in Tennessee (Dennis, 1938), Ohio (Wesson and Wesson, 1940), near Chicago (Gregg, 1944) and Mississippi (Smith, 1924). Herbers (1983) discussed the social organization and Wilson and Fagen (1974) estimated the total behavioral repertoires. Stuart (1987a, 1987b) reported on transient nestmate recognition. Wilson (1974b) studied the behavior of workers in laboratory colonies. It eats honeydew on leaves of trees and plants (Smith, 1924), but apparently does not tend aphids (Dennis, 1938), and carries seeds (Heithaus, 1981) and presumably eats at least part of them. They also feed at the axillary nectaries of bracken fern (Douglas, 1983), and on dead insects (Fellers and Fellers, 1982). Foraging involves tandem running (Moeglich, 1979). Seasonally, foraging rate is highest in the spring and early summer, dropping off in the fall and being absent in the winter (Fellers, 1989). It is most active during the daylight hours (Fellers, 1989).

It is the host of *Leptothorax (Leptothorax) duloticus* Wesson (Talbot, 1957), *Protomognathus americanus* (Emery) (Emery, 1895; Alloway et al., 1982; Alloway and del Rio Pesado, 1979, 1983; pers. obs.), possibly *L. minutissimus* (Smith, 1942) and *Limulodes parki* (Coleoptera-Seevers and Dybas, 1943).

***Leptothorax (Myrafant) davis* Wheeler, new status**

Figs. 57, 105, & 106; Map 15

Leptothorax texanus davis Wheeler, 1905:385, worker, female, USA, New Jersey, Lakehurst; *Leptothorax (Myrafant) texanus davis*: Smith, M., 1952:104-106; Smith, D., 1979:1395

Species complex: *tricarinatus*

Diagnosis: This species is easily recognized as the postpetiole is more than half as wide as the gaster. The dorsum of the postpetiole is covered with poorly defined punctures and the antenna has 12-segments. The head is punctate, the central portion has numerous striae, the top and side of the mesosoma are also punctate with a few wavy rugae. The propodeal

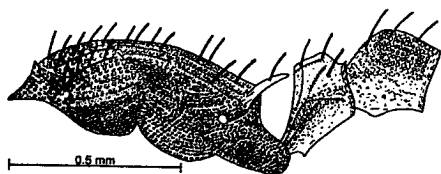


Fig. 105. Mesosoma of a cotype worker of *Leptothorax davis*.