5,400'; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1973:71 larva; *Leptothorax* (*Myrafant*) *hispidus*: Smith, 1979:1393

Species complex: *hispidus*

Diagnosis: This is a large species (3-4mm total length) with a 12-segmented antenna, dark brown, with the mesosoma depressed at the area of the mesopropodeal suture, although the sculpture is not broken in the region. The top and side of the mesosoma are covered by coarse, reticulated rugae. The propodeal armature is represented by bumps. The node of the petiole is low and truncate. The petiole and postpetiole are covered with reticulated rugae.

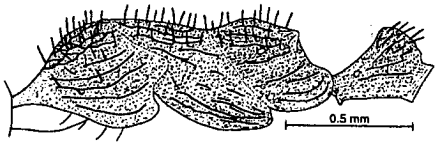

Fig.114. Side of the mesosoma and petiole of a paratype worker of *L. hispidus*.

Distribution: USA, Texas: Jeff Davis Co. (Davis Mountains, Limpia Canyon); Brewster Co. (Chisos Mountains [Van Pelt, 1983]). México, Coahuila (Diamante Pass, Arteaga [Cole, 1957]), Nuevo León, (Monterrey, Parque Chipinque), Zacatecas (30 mi. E Sombrerete [Cole, 1957]) (Map 19).

Type series: Holotype worker in Cole collection, paratypes in Cole collection (University of Tennessee), Kennedy collection (Ohio State University), Creighton collection, Gregg collection (Colorado State University), Talbot collection (Lindenwood College), AMNH, MCZC, USNM [seen].

Discussion: The strongly reticulo-punctate disc of the first gastral tergite, the depressed mesosoma, and the large size will separate this species from all other species in the subgenus, including the other species in the *hispidus* complex (*L. peninsularis*, *L. punctaticeps*). Cole (1957) stated that this species is most closely related to *L. silvestrii*. I can not agree as the only important characteristic they have in common is that the disc of the gastral tergum is distinctly reticulo-punctate (which appears to have evolved independently several times), and this characteristic varies considerably, at least in *L. silvestrii* (Creighton, 1953). It can be easily distinguished from *L. silvestrii*, as the hind femur in *L. silvestrii* is greatly incrassate, which is not the case in *L. hispidus*. In addition, the impression at the mesopropodeal suture is absent in *L. silvestrii*; the scapes are longer in *L. hispidus*, as compared to *L. silvestrii*. The eye is normal in shape for the genus, which easily separates this species from *L. obliquicanthus*, which has a kidney-shaped eye. In addition the propodeal spines are simple angles in *L. hispidus* and are well developed in the other two species. Although this is clearly a member of the subgenus *Myrafant*, it does