

Type series: Holotype worker (MCZC) and 12 paratype workers (CASC, CWEM, LACM, MCZC, MZSP, USNM), NEW MEXICO, Socorro Co., Beartrap Canyon, 42.7 K 133° from Datl, 33°50'13.0" 107°34'04.5", near intersection of roads 476 X 549, 6-viii-1994, 2286 meters, W. Mackay #16889.

Material examined: Thirteen workers.

Etymology: From Latin, *melinus* for honey colored.

Discussion: This species is most similar to *L. mariposa*, and differs in that the posterior surface of the petiole is primarily punctate, whereas the posterior surface of the *L. mariposa* has fine rugulae. It may be

shown to be a synonym of *L. mariposa*, when the variability of this new species is better known. It is also similar to *L. nitens*, but is easily recognized in being much lighter in color and having a mesosoma which is completely and densely punctate. *Leptothorax nitens* has a mesosoma of which the dorsum is primarily smooth and polished.

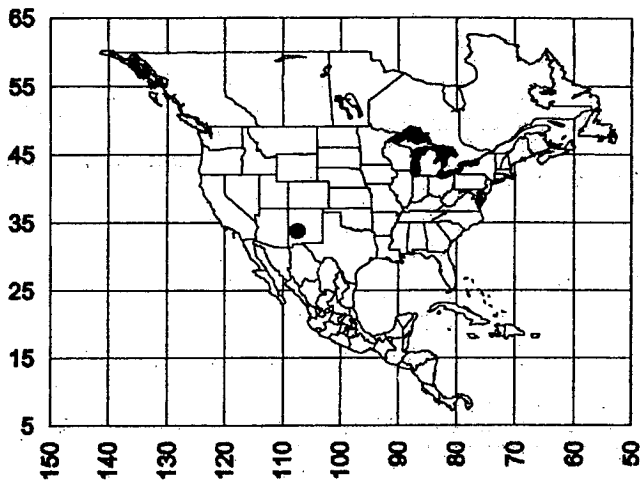
Biology: The nest was collected under a small, hard log in the soil on a south-facing slope. The site was in a recently burned ponderosa pine forest. The soil was a fine sand with scattered rocks. Brood were found in the nest (August). The ants are very timid and feign death. Only one nest of this species was found at the site. A *Myrmica* sp. female was under the same log.

### ***Leptothorax (Myrafant) mexicanus* new species**

Figs. 26, 30, 133, & 134; Map 28

Species complex: *tricarinatus*

Diagnosis: This is a small, black species, with a smooth and strongly shining head, 12 segmented antenna, and very poorly developed propodeal spines (simple bumps). The dorsum of the pronotum and of



Map 27. Distribution of *Leptothorax melinus*.