

paratype females and 21 paratype males (AMNH, CASC, CWEM, FMNH, LACM, MCZC, USNM, UNAM), taken from the same nest series, MEXICO, Coahuila, 16 KE San Antonio, 20 May 1988, W. Mackay #10270, nest collected under rock.

Material examined: Forty workers, 13 females and 21 males, including type series, and 53 KSE Arteaga, 24 Sept. 1987, W. Mackay #10035 (26 workers, 1 dealate female CWEM), and 10 KS San Luis Potosí, 21 May 1988, W.

Mackay #10309 1 worker CWEM).

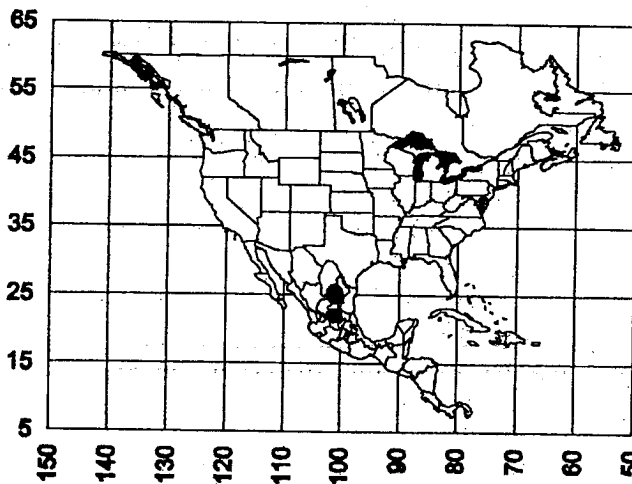
Etymology: Based on wide distribution in northeastern Mexico.

Discussion: The smooth, shining dorsum of the head with very fine striae differentiates this species from most of the others in the subgenus.

The glossy pronotum and mesonotum will further distinguish this species from

most others. Additionally the blunt petiolar node will separate it from other similar species, such as *L. mariposa*, *L. melinus*, *L. nitens*, *L. adustus* and *L. chandleri*. It would be most likely to be confused with *L. cokendolpheri* and *L. punctithorax*. The smooth dorsal surface of the postpetiole would separate it from both of these species, which have the dorsum of the postpetiole punctate. Note that the posterior surface of the postpetiole of *L. mexicanus* is punctate. *Leptothorax mexicanus* and *L. punctithorax* are both dark brown, but differ in the sculpture of the top of the postpetiole, and the dorsum of the mesonotum is nearly smooth and shining (with foveolate punctures in *L. punctithorax*). It could be confused with *L. brevispinosus*, from which it can be distinguished as the side of the pronotum is covered with striae (mostly smooth and glossy in *L. brevispinosus*). The sexuals of the two species are distinct (see key to the *tricarinatus* species complex).

Biology: The type series was collected nesting under a rock in a pine forest on a west-facing slope, covered with abundant rocks. The specimen collected near San Luis Potosí was together with *Pheidole*



Map 28. Distribution of *Leptothorax mexicanus*.