

much darker in color (*L. carinatus* is pale brown or brown-orange). The propodeal spines are well developed, but short ($1/3$ to $1/2$ length of distance between bases), whereas the propodeal armature of *L. carinatus* consists of poorly developed angles.

Biology: Nests in open, dry grassy areas, in ponderosa pine forests (Cole, 1954; Mackay et al., 1987), or even in desert areas (Smith, 1952; Mackay, pers. obs.), under rocks or in soil (Wheeler, 1906; Cole, 1954; Van Pelt, 1983; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1986; Mackay, pers. obs.). Nests are monogynous (Frumhoff and Ward, 1992) and are marked by a hole in the ground and occasionally with a light, asymmetrical scattering of fine soil (Cole, 1954). Colonies are "rather small" (Cole, 1954).

Leptothorax (Myrafant) nevadensis Wheeler

Figs. 49, 50, 137, & 138; Map 31

Leptothorax nevadensis Wheeler, 1903a:252-254, Plate 12, Fig. 20 worker, female, male, Texas, Travis Co., Austin and McNeil; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1973b:71, larva; *Leptothorax (Myrafant) nevadensis*: D. Smith, 1979:1393

Leptothorax eldoradensis Wheeler, 1915: 414-415, worker **New Synonymy**

Leptothorax melanderi Wheeler, 1909:81, **New Synonymy**

Leptothorax nevadensis rudis Wheeler, 1917:508-509, **New Synonymy** [note: this is an unresolved junior primary homonym, see Bolton, 1995]

Species complex: *tricarinatus*

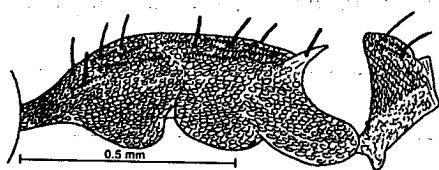


Fig. 137. Mesosoma and petiole of a worker of *Leptothorax nevadensis* (WY).

Diagnosis: This species is fairly common throughout the western United States. The clypeus has a moderately well defined medial carina and 2 well-defined lateral carina, which curve and cross the anterior part of the medial lobe of the clypeus. It has a completely and strongly striated head with punctures

between the striae, and with rarely a slender median strip without sculpture. The sides of the pronotum are distinctly and coarsely rugose, with the background weakly punctate, but shining. The dorsum of the mesonotum is striate to finely rugose, but mixed with background punctures and not as shiny as the background of the sides of the pronotum. The petiole and postpetiole are primarily punctate, but fine rugulae can be seen on the dorsum of the petiole. There is usually a single ruga on the side of the petiole. Some larger