

Fig. 138. Top of the mesosoma of a worker of *L. nevadensis* (CA). The sculpture of only the right side is shown.

specimens have several poorly defined rugae on the side of the petiole (making it look "wrinkled"), and occasionally on the anterior face. These larger specimens usually have longer propodeal spines, sometimes as long as the distance between the bases. These specimens were referred to as *L. nevadensis* subsp. *melanderi* in the

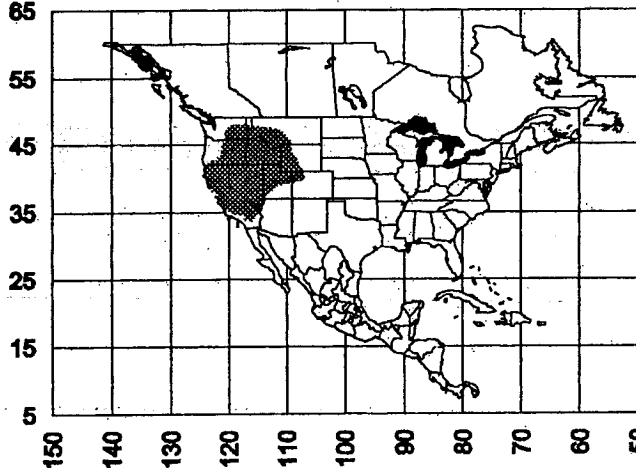
past.

Distribution: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California, Colorado (Map 31).

Type series: AMNH, MCZC [seen].

Discussion: Several forms were described by Wheeler (*L. eldoradensis*, *L. melanderi*, *L. nevadensis rudis*) and recognized by Creighton (1950) as subspecies of *L. nevadensis*, based on differences in the sculpturing of the mesosoma and petiole and shape of the head. Creighton (1950) noted that hybrids were found between these, except for *L. nevadensis* and *L. nevadensis rudis*, and he predicted hybrids between these two

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Map 31. Distribution of *Leptothorax nevadensis*.

would be found in the Lake Tahoe area where the ranges overlap. In addition, *rudis* is an unresolved junior primary homonym of *rudis* Mayr (1868). As a consequence I can see no justification in recognizing different taxa based on these characters, and propose all three as synonyms of *L. nevadensis*.

This species can be distinguished from the closely related *L. gallae* as the petiole is not pinched and the node of the petiole is rounded as seen from behind and the propodeal spines are shorter (see *gallae* discussion for more details). In addition, the top of the petiole is rugose as in *L. gallae*, but the anterior edge is curved, not constricted as in *L. gallae*. The head has