

fine striae, which separate it from those species with punctate heads, including *L. punctaticeps*, *L. terrigena* and *L. punctatissimus*. The rugae on the pronotum are well defined, and distinguished from the background, which is mostly smooth and shining, not punctate as in *L. gallae*.

Leptothorax nevadensis and *L. neomexicanus* have similar lateral clypeal carinae, which usually curve and connect on the anterior part of the medial lobe of the clypeus. They are thus apparently closely related. They can be easily separated as the dorsum of the head of *L. nevadensis* is nearly completely sculptured, whereas part of the head of *L. neomexicanus* is smooth and shining. This species is also closely related to *L. lindae*. Workers can be separated as the dorsum of the pronotum is rugose (easiest to see from the side), whereas the dorsum of the pronotum of *L. lindae* is densely punctate, without rugae. The intrarugal spaces on the head of the female of *L. nevadensis* is moderately shining, with fine sculpture, intrarugal spaces of the female of *L. lindae* are dull and punctate.

Note Wheeler (1903a) stated that *L. nevadensis* was closely related to *L. andrei*, without actually seeing specimens of *L. andrei*. This is incorrect. The 3 clypeal carinae of *L. nevadensis* are well developed; *L. andrei* has a number of poorly developed carinae on the clypeus. Additional, more superficial characters which would separate these 2 species would include the punctae or striae on the dorsum of the head of *L. nevadensis*, which contrast with the rugulae on the head of *L. andrei*. The propodeal spines of *L. nevadensis* are well formed and elongate; the armature of *L. andrei* consists of simple angles.

Biology: This species nests in soil (Wheeler, 1903a; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1973a, 1986) in moist areas (Cole, 1934), usually under stones (Wheeler, 1903a; Cole, 1942; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1986), or in rotten wood. Wheeler and Wheeler (1986) report this species from several communities, including cool desert, pinyon-juniper forests (Cole, 1966), coniferous forest (Wheeler and Wheeler, 1973a) and alpine areas. D. S. Chandler (pers. comm.) collected this species in litter in a number of plant communities, including tanbark oak, oak leaf litter near a spring, maple and oak litter, Douglas fir, and laurel. It may be involved in plesiobiosis, as Wheeler (1903a) reported it nesting at the entrance of a *Trachymyrmex turrifex* nest and at the edge of a flourishing colony of *Pheidole tepicana* (= *P. instabilis*). Insecticide treatments for the spruce budworm in eastern Oregon had little impact on this species (Murphy and Croft, 1990).