Leptothorax (Myrafant) nitens Emery
Figs. 21, 34, 139 & 140; Map 32

Leptothorax nitens Emery, 1895:322-323, Plate 8, Fig. 16, worker, Utah, American Fork Canyon, near Salt Lake; Wheeler, 1903a:244-245, Plate 12, Fig. 15, worker; Cole, 1958a:536 female, male; Wheeler and Wheeler, 1973:71 larva

L. nitens occidentalis Wheeler, 1903a:245 (Creighton, 1950:265).

L. nitens heathi Wheeler, 1903a:245 (Cole, 1958a:536).

Species complex: *nitens*

Diagnosis: This species has a 12-segmented antenna. The tops of the mesosoma and head are nearly always smooth, glossy and shining, or finely punctate. The sculpture that is present consists of fine, longitudinal costulae. The propodeal armature consists of small angles (Fig. 139). The node of the petiole is sharp. Color ranges from concolorous yellow to medium tan.

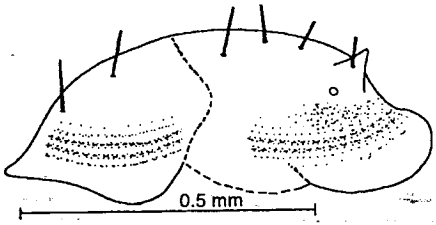

Fig. 139. Mesosoma of the holotype worker of *Leptothorax nitens*.

Distribution: Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas (Map 32). Some of the records may be based on misidentifications.

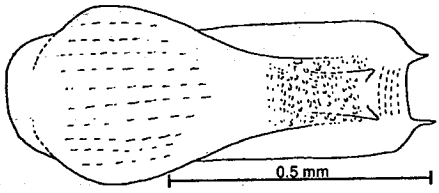

Fig. 140. Dorsum of the mesosoma of the holotype worker of *Leptothorax nitens*.

Type series: Although Creighton (1950) states there are no types in this country, the holotype (consisting of only a mesosoma) is in the USNM (labeled AmFkCan, 23-6 Ut; USNM Type # 54075) [seen]. A specimen labeled as a type in Emery's collection (MCSN) is incorrectly labeled [seen]. The locality is: USA, San Francisco. The specimen is poorly mounted and the head is covered with glue, so it is impossible to identify it.

Discussion: The mesosoma of the holotype of this species is nearly completely smooth and shining. Wheeler (1903a) stated that smooth workers are found in nests together with workers that are more roughly sculptured. Cole (1958) also found considerable variability in this species in terms of color, scape length, surface sculpture and length of propodeal spines. Thus this species is difficult to characterize. The