

Etymology: Name based on the densely punctate head.

Discussion: This species could be confused with *L. punctatissimus* or with *L. terrigena*. See discussion of *L. punctatissimus* for details useful for distinguishing the three species. The densely punctate head (compared with a rugose head in the other species) will easily separate it from the others in the *hispidus* complex.

Biology: The nest of the type series was found in a log in a pine forest, with few other types of trees. The soil was a dark loam.

***Leptothorax (Myrafant) punctatissimus* new species**

Figs. 40 & 150; Map 39

Species complex: *andersoni*

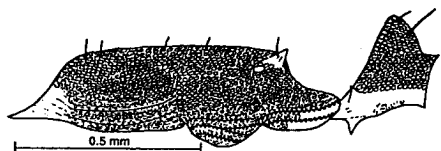


Fig. 150. Mesosoma and petiole of the holotype worker of *Leptothorax punctatissimus*.

Diagnosis: This species is easily recognized as nearly the entire ant (except ventral surface of head and the gaster) is covered with dense, coarse punctures. Some of the punctures, especially those on dorsum of head, are in rows which nearly form poorly defined striae.

The antenna has 12 segments, the propodeal spines are small, and the petiolar node is usually blunt, rounded and somewhat truncate as seen in profile. The subpetiolar process is well developed and sharp. The hairs on the mesosoma are blunt and a few are nearly spatulate.

Distribution: Known only from the state of Nuevo León, México (Map 39).

Description

Worker measurement (mm): HL 0.55-0.64, HW 0.49-0.53, SL 0.43-0.47, EL 0.10-0.12, WL 0.64-0.70, PW 0.17-0.18, PL 0.20-0.22, PPW 0.20-0.24, PPL 0.17-0.19. Indices: CI 83-89, SI 73-78, PI 77-90, PPI 118-126.

Mandibles apparently with 5 teeth; anterior border of clypeus convex and broadly rounded, clypeus with about 12 carinae, including a medial carina; vertex straight; eyes small (measurements above); mesosoma with none of the sutures breaking surface sculpture; propodeal angles very small, consisting of tiny angles; petiole with well developed subpetiolar tooth, directed slightly anteriorly (Fig. 150); petiolar node blunt and rounded in profile.

Erect hairs blunt, up to 0.1mm in length, scattered on most surfaces, except scapes and legs, where they are much finer and nearly decumbent.