

Map 39. Distribution of *Leptothorax punctatissimus*.

Sculpture very characteristic of this species: entire ant, with the exception of the ventral surface of the head and the gaster, is evenly and densely covered with coarse punctures.

Color: yellowish brown, gaster with darker, transverse band on posterior third of first tergum, head with dorsum noticeably darker, especially when

viewed from side.

Female (dealate) measurements (mm): HL 0.64, HW 0.55, SL 0.44, EL 0.18, WL 0.91, PW 0.18, PL 0.15, PPW 0.29, PPL 0.18. Indices: CI 87, SI 70, PI 120, PPI 160.

Similar to worker in most aspects, dorsum of head finely rugose, top of mesosoma with parallel, longitudinal striae, propodeal spines consisting of simple angles, node of petiole with transverse rugae, node of postpetiole punctate, petiole node as seen from side with moderately sharp apex.

Male: Unknown.

Type series: Holotype worker (MCZC, #11013-5) and paratype worker (CWEM, #11009-10), MEXICO, Nuevo León: El Salto (Zaragosa), 11-vi-1988, 1415 meters, W. Mackay, 5 paratype workers (CASC, CWEM, MCZC, USNM) and 1 paratype female (MCZC), MEXICO, Nuevo León, Monterrey, Parque Chipinque, vii/ix-1989, J. García.

Material examined: Seven workers, 1 female.

Etymology: Based on the densely punctured body surfaces.

Discussion: This species is superficially similar to 3 other species: *L. punctatissimus* (*andersoni* species complex), *L. puncticeps* (*hispidus* species complex), and *L. terrigena* (*andrei* species complex). *Leptothorax puncticeps* can be easily separated, as it is considerably larger than the other two species (see key and descriptions). *Leptothorax punctatissimus* and *L. terrigena* are more difficult to distinguish. *Leptothorax punctatissimus* is slightly larger and the erect hairs are finer, especially obvious when comparing the hairs of the petiole