

The head of *L. texanus* is mostly covered with punctures, but the central region is partially smooth, without striae, which are found in *L. davis*. The node of the petiole is not truncate as it is in *L. davis*. *Leptothorax texanus* is found in the mid west and western part of the United States, *L. davis* from eastern US.

**Biology:** This species nests in sandy soil (Wheeler, 1903a; Talbot, 1934; Wesson and Wesson, 1940; Gregg, 1944; Smith, 1952) or even sand dunes (Talbot, 1934; Cole, 1952), or clay soils (Cole, 1952) in damp spots under post-oaks, cedars and pines (Talbot, 1934; Carter, 1962; Mackay et al., 1988), often in the driest sites (Carter, 1962). They often nest at the base of a grass clump (Smith, 1952). Males have been collected from late May to late July in the nests (Wesson and Wesson, 1940; Cole, 1952; Smith, 1952). These ants form foraging trails which are nearly invisible, across sand dunes and moss (Smith, 1952), and apparently use tandem running.

*Leptothorax (Myrafant) tricarinatus* Emery

Figs. 58, 59, 182, & 183; Map 54

*Leptothorax tricarinatus* Emery, 1895:318, 321-322, Plate 8, Fig. 14; worker, South Dakota, Hill City; Wheeler, 1903a:247-248, Plate 1; Fig. 17; Smith, 1952:98-100 male; *Leptothorax (Myrafant) tricarinatus* Smith, 1950:30

Species complex: *tricarinatus*

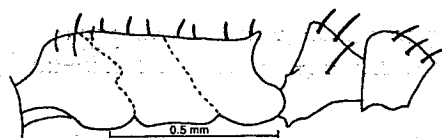


Fig. 182. Mesosoma, petiole and postpetiole of the holotype worker of *Leptothorax tricarinatus*.

**Diagnosis:** Antenna 12-segmented, antennal scape nearly reaching occipital corner, clypeus with well developed carinae, including a medial carina and two lateral carinae, area between carinae mostly smooth and shining, dorsum of head rugulose, intrarugal spaces shining, area around eye with nearly foveolate punctures, dorsum of mesosoma finely rugulose, with a nearly smooth back-

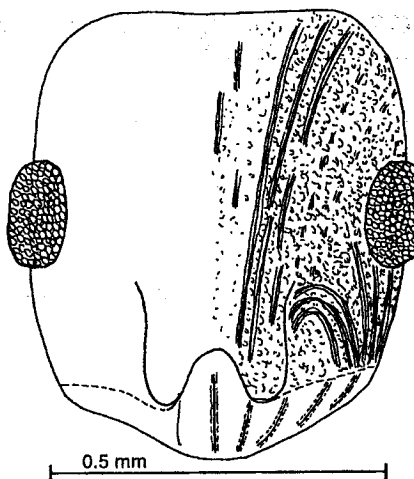


Fig. 183. Head of a worker of *Leptothorax tricarinatus* (UT).