

CWEM), Davis Mts., McIves Ranch, 1732 m, 2-viii-1997, W&E Mackay # 17518 (2 workers CWEM). MEXICO: Nuevo León, Monterrey, Parque Chipinque, vii/ix-1989, J. Garcia (19 workers from 4 nest series); San Luis Potosí, 41 KSE Santo Domingo, Kilometer 61 on Route 80, 9 June 1988, 1005 meters, W. Mackay #10956 (35 workers, 1 female, 2 males MCZC, CWEM).

Etymology: Named in honor of my close friend, Dr. Walter Whitford, who has published many papers on the ants of southwestern United States.

Discussion: The presence of an 11-segmented antenna easily separates *L. whitfordi* from all of the other species in the subgenus with similar sculpture. The smooth dorsum of the head and partially smooth pronotum would separate it from *L. schaumii*. The sculpture of the mesosoma is nearly identical to that of *L. mexicanus* (Fig. 133). The specimen from near Las Cruces differs from the type series in that the propodeal spines are more developed, the subpeduncular process is poorly developed (well developed in the type series) and the pronotum is covered with larger punctures that approach the form of foveolae (punctures in "normal" *L. whitfordi*, with a few wavy striae and areas that are nearly smooth and shining). Specimens from the Davis Mountains are similar in having more developed spines (they are still small), nearly foveolate punctures on the pronotum, but have a well developed subpeduncular process. Some of the specimens from México (San Luis Potosí) differ from the New Mexican specimens. The pronotum of these specimens is partially smooth and shining (Fig. 189), whereas the entire mesosoma *L. whitfordi* is usually heavily punctate, nearly foveolate (Fig 189). The top of the dorsal face of the propodeum of this form has fine transverse rugulae, the similar surface of *L. whitfordi* is punctate (sides of the propodeum may have poorly defined longitudinal striae). There is a transition between the sculpturing of all of these various extremes, and they are thus considered to be *L. whitfordi*. It is possible that *L. whitfordi* is a species complex, but further collecting will be necessary to evaluate the variability within the species.

Biology: This species nests in branches of *Quercus* oaks (gray oak, Arizona oak) and other trees, including a mesquite branch (*Prosopis glandulosa*), which was full of tunnels, at a height of 3 meters (San Luis Potosí). The habitat ranges from desert scrub, with *Yucca* sp., *Prosopis* sp., and *Opuntia* spp. to oak forests. Brood were found in nests in August. One completely excavated nest contained 1 queen, 2 males and 35 workers (#10956), a second contained 1 queen and 116 workers (# 17975). A single worker was collected loose in an unspecified tree, in a desert arroyo with oaks and *Celtis*. Specimens in the Davis Mts.