

fined, but is not included in the *Myrafant* revision, presumably because its resemblance to species traditionally included in *Myrafant* is likely to be due to convergence. It is possible that *Myrafant* will eventually be recognized as a valid subgenus, or even as a genus (Hölldobler & Wilson 1990), but it would be best if this occurred in a more general review of the subgroups presently combined in *Leptothorax*.

Leptothorax palustris Cover and Deyrup, **new species**
(Figs. 1-2)

Diagnosis of Worker

Distinguished from all other Nearctic *Leptothorax* by the following combination of character states: head with fine, longitudinal, well-separated dorsal carinae, otherwise shining; mesosoma with fine, longitudinal, well-separated dorsal carinae, anastomosing dorsally; propodeal spines slender, acute, projecting distinctly upward from the smoothly convex dorsum of the mesosoma; postpetiole in dorsal view almost twice as wide as petiole, and almost as long as wide, shining; color yellowish, head yellowish brown. Most similar to *L. texanus* Wheeler (Fig. 3), but postpetiole relatively longer, color lighter.

Description of Holotype Worker

Features visible in lateral view described from left side. Measurements in mm: Total length (length of head excluding mandibles, + length of mesosoma, excluding propodeal spines, + length of petiole, postpetiole, gaster): 2.90; head length 0.65; head width 0.50; length of mesosoma: 0.93; length of petiole: 0.25; length of postpetiole: 0.27; length of gaster: 0.80. Head: dorsum with fine, well-separated, longitudinal, irregular carinae, with scattered, short cross-carinae; interstices weakly shining; clypeus with a strong median carina, separated by a distance equal to about half its length from the sublateral longitudinal carinae, a lateral carina also present on each side; malar space slightly more than 1.5 times maximum length of eye; antennae with 12 joints. Mesosoma: evenly convex in profile; dorsum with a few coarse carinae forming a rough network, interstices weakly shining; pronotum and mesopleuron each with several irregular, indistinct longitudinal carinae, interstices weakly shining; metapleuron with five distinct longitudinal carinae, interstices shining; propodeal spines long, slender, in lateral view spine making a 135 degree angle with the dorsum of the mesosoma; petiole in profile concave ventrally, with a small, sharp an-

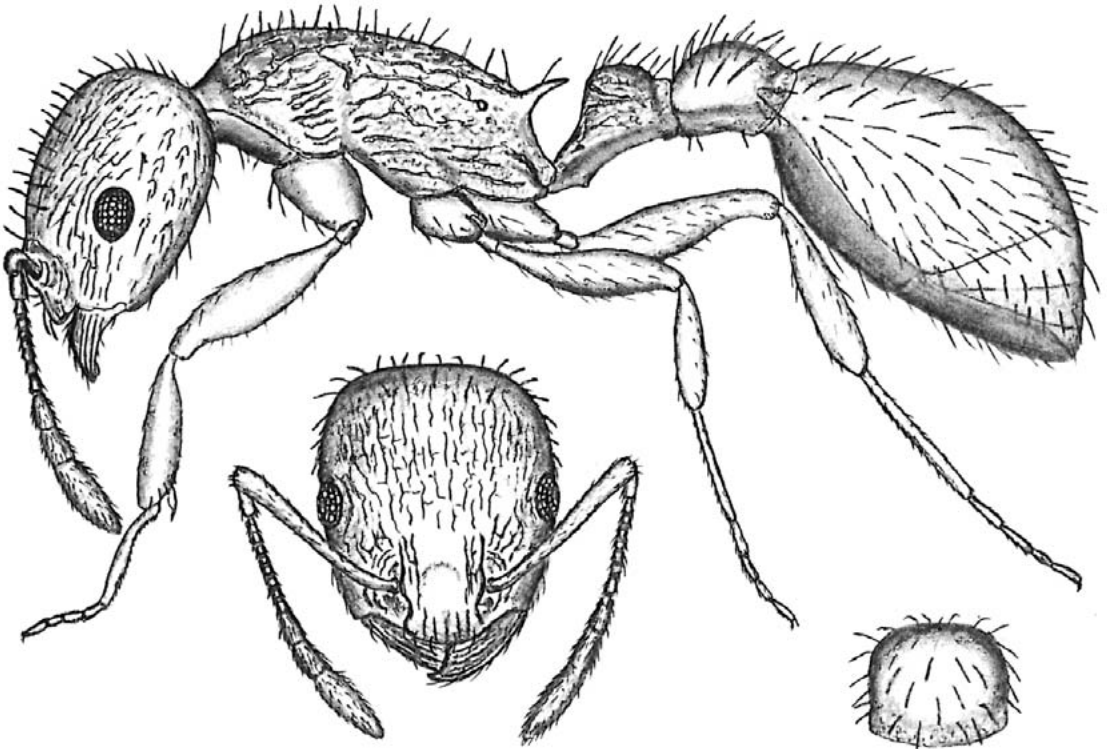


Fig. 1. Worker of *Leptothorax palustris* n. sp.: lateral habitus view; frontal view of head; dorsal view of postpetiole. Length of ant: 2.9 mm.