ter states, the variation seen in the 173 specimens (ABS collection) from throughout Florida is particularly convincing, with every permutation of the *texanus* and *davisi* diagnostic character states represented in this one set of specimens. We think that the problem in understanding the relationship between *davisi* and *texanus* is the understandable result of insufficient specimens when these taxa were first established, and insufficient specimens on hand for the subsequent reviews by Creighton (1950) and Mackay (2000).

We therefore propose the synonymy of *Leptothorax texanus* Wheeler and *Leptothorax davisi* Wheeler under the senior name *Leptothorax texanus* (**new synonymy**). We do not retain *davisi* as a subspecies because it seems that the features used to define that subspecies are not clearly confined to a region, as is normally required for a geographic subspecies. There is, however, some apparent geographic variation within *L. texanus.* The type series from Texas does show unusually strong rugose carinae on the mesosoma, while the types of *davisi*, from New Jersey, have unusually weak mesosomal carinae. The zone of intergradation, however, seems to occupy most of the range of the species. This analysis may not be the final word on the *texana-davisi* question. *Leptothorax texanus*, as presently understood, has one of the largest ranges of any North American *Leptothorax*. It is still possible that it is a complex of two or more species; at present, however, we have no evidence of this.

Identification of *Leptothorax* of Southeastern North America

The *Leptothorax* fauna of the Southeast has not been reviewed in its entirety since Creighton's *Ants of North America* (1950). Seven of the southeastern species appear in Mackay's revision (2000), with species accounts that include a small literature review for each species. Our aim is to make it easy to identify known southeastern species, and to facilitate the recognition of any unreported or undescribed species that may occur in the Southeast. For this purpose we define the area as the Atlantic Coastal states from Florida through North Carolina, with the addition of Alabama. North of this area there are several additional species of *Leptothorax*, including the unresolved *L. muscorum* complex. Following the key is a brief summary of the natural history of each species. Included are suggestions for finding colonies of these species in the hope of encouraging further collections from the Southeast. The known distribution of several species includes significant (and improbable) gaps in the Southeast.

The surface sculpture on *Leptothorax* is best viewed with a diffused light source, such as a fluorescent light.

Key to *Leptothorax* Workers of Southeastern North America

1a. Mesosoma in lateral profile with a conspicuous impression between the mesonotum and the propodeum (Fig. 4, A:1a) (throughout Southeast) . . . . . *pergandei* Emery

1b. Mesosoma not conspicuously impressed between the mesonotum and propodeum 2

2a. Head and body, except gaster, covered with coarse, raised reticulations (Fig. 4, B: 2a) (tropical FL) *allardycei* (Mann) 2b. Head and body not covered with coarse, raised reticulations 3

3a. Propodeal spines in lateral view short and triangular, no longer than the width of an eye, as in Fig.4, C: 3a . . 4

3b. Propodeal spines in lateral view slender, usually longer than the width of an eye, as in Fig. 4, E: 3b 5

4a. Head in frontal and lateral views with conspicuous, irregular, longitudinal carinae (Fig. 4, C: 4a) (probably throughout Southeast, except tropical FL) . . . . . *bradleyi* Wheeler

4b. Head in frontal and lateral views largely shining and lacking sculpture, with only a few delicate carinae around the eye and frontal ridges Fig. 4, D: 4b), or, in larger specimens, head mostly granulate, not shining, with delicate carinae almost hidden in granulate background (throughout Southeast, except tropical FL). . . . . *schaumii* Roger

5a. Head and mesosoma not shining and without conspicuous sculpture; only a few hairs on head and body, these hairs short and broadened; postpetiole unusually large (Fig. 4, E: 5a) (tropical FL) . *torrei* (Aguayo)

5b. Head and mesosoma partially shining or strongly sculptured; hairs various (occasional specimens of *L. curvispinosus* lack conspicuous sculpture; this species more northern, without enlarged postpetiole). 6

6a. Dorsum of mesosoma mostly smooth shining; color usually dark brown, legs and antennae pale yellow (Fig. 4, F) (AL, NC) . . . . . *tuscaloosae* Wilson

6b. Dorsum of mesosoma either with obvious fine carinae, or not shining, or both 7