

- 8a. Propodeal spines in lateral view about as long as basal face of petiole (as in Fig. 4, I: 8a); sides of mesosoma with strong, subparallel carinae (as in Fig 4, H: 8a) 9
- 8b. Propodeal spines in lateral view shorter than basal face of petiole (Fig. 4, J: 8b); sides of mesosoma with fine, irregular carinae that are not parallel (Fig. 4, J: 8c) 10
- 9a. Blackish; head in frontal view with delicate, longitudinal ridges, but otherwise shining (Fig. 4, H: 9a) (southern Appalachians) *longispinosus* Roger
- 9b. Yellowish or yellowish brown; head in frontal view not shining (Fig. 4, I) (Southeast, into north FL) *curvispinosus* Mayr
- 10a. Blackish, sometimes with dark red on the mesosoma; postpetiole in dorsal view much wider than long (Fig.3) (throughout Southeast) *texanus* Wheeler
- 10b. Yellowish, head usually darker than body; postpetiole in dorsal view about as long as wide (Fig.1; Fig. 4, J) (north FL) *palustris*, n. sp.

Abbreviated Notes on Species (Alphabetical)

L. allardycei. Tropical Florida, Caribbean. Nests are usually in hollow twigs or vines on living trees, occasionally in sawgrass culms at edges of marshes; in Bahamas sometimes in fallen twigs. Often in poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*). Nocturnal. Usually pale yellow, occasionally brownish yellow.

L. bradleyi. Central Florida north into Georgia and Alabama; probably in the Carolinas as well. Similar in color and morphology to *L. smithi*, but propodeal spines shorter and few conspicuous carinae on side of mesosoma. Nests are usually in large, living pines, especially *Pinus elliotii* and *P. palustris* in open areas. A member of the longleaf pine ecosystem. Sometimes attracted to peanut butter or jelly baits on tree trunks, but the nest is seldom accessible.

L. curvispinosus. North Florida, throughout remainder of Southeast, but often rare in southern part of range. In mature hardwood forests in southern edge of range, often in brushy areas and open forest farther north. Nests are usually in hollow twigs or weed stems on ground, but may be in dead twigs or branches up to about 1 m above ground. Yellowish color and non-shining head distinguish this species from all sympatric southeastern *Leptothorax*, but similar to *L. ambiguus* Emery, which occurs to the north and can be distinguished by shorter and wider propodeal spines (see Creighton 1950). The latter species might possibly occur at higher elevations in the southern Appalachians. Attracted to sweet baits.

L. longispinosus. A northern species extending south at mid elevations in the southern Appalachians. Usually found in mesic forest or forest edges. Nests are in hollow twigs or nuts on the ground or buried in leaf litter, occasionally under bark of dead trees. Dark color combined with long, straight propodeal spines are diagnostic in the Southeast. Attracted to sweet baits; individuals of this species and some other *Leptothorax* spend a long time licking solid baits, but quickly

fill up at liquid baits such as jelly, making them easier to trail back to the nest.

L. palustris. See comments, under discussion of the species.

L. pergandei. New Jersey through Florida, west into Nebraska and Arizona. The strongly impressed suture between the mesonotum and propodeum is diagnostic throughout its range. Usually found in open forests or forest edges, including both well-drained and poorly drained sites; has been found in salt marshes. Nests are usually in hollow twigs or nuts, usually buried in leaf litter; occasionally nests in soil. May be deep yellow, brown or black; occasionally bicolored. Readily carries shortbread crumbs back to nest.

L. schaumii. Central Florida north into southern Maine, west into Texas. An arboreal species with short spines and the head shining, the latter character state visible at low magnification in the field. Nests are usually in dead branches or under loose bark on live hardwoods or conifers, usually the former. Can be either blackish brown or yellow, sometimes bicolored. Somewhat attracted to peanut butter or jelly baits.

L. smithi. Central Florida north into the mid-Atlantic states and west into Ohio. Nests are usually in standing dead trees in open areas. In Florida usually found in pine snags. A dark reddish brown species similar in color and morphology to *bradleyi*, distinguished by long propodeal spines and conspicuous carinae on the sides of the mesosoma. This is the same species as *L. wheeleri* M. R. Smith, a name that became preoccupied when the genus *Macromischa* was synonymized with *Leptothorax* (Baroni Urbani 1978). Somewhat attracted to peanut butter or jelly baits, but the nest is seldom accessible.

L. texanus. Central Florida west to Texas, north to New Jersey. In the Southeast this species and the larger *L. pergandei* are the only dark, shining *Leptothorax* found foraging on the ground in open areas. Some southeastern queens are blackish, others a striking brick red. Nests are in soil, usually only a few inches below the surface.