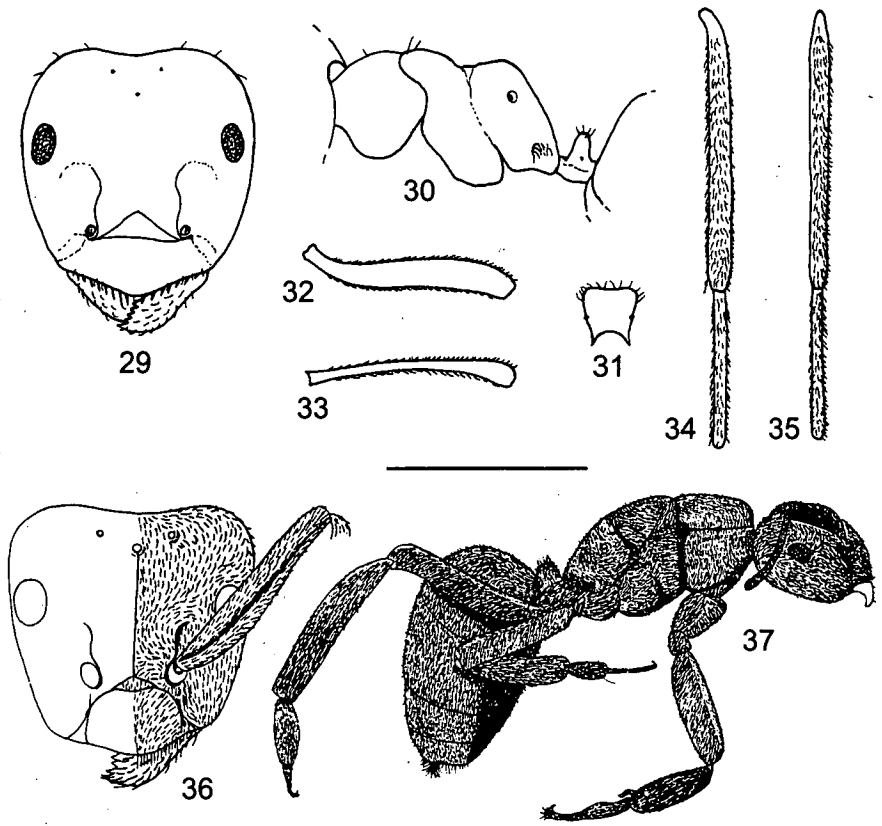

Figures 29–37. 29–35 *Lasius orientalis* Karawajew, 1912. (worker, neotype; 36, 37, queen [after Yamauchi and Hayashida 1968]); (29, 36) head, frontal view; (30) alitrunk and petiole, in profile; (31) petiolar scale, frontal view; (32) scape, dorsal view; (33) same, lateral view; (34) hind tibia and first tarsal joint, lateral view; (35) same, dorsal view; (37) body in profile. Scale bar = 1 mm.

with emarginate occipital margin; scape and legs with numerous short subdecumbent hairs; promesonotal dorsum and occipital margin with a few quite short standing hairs;

Queens: petiolar scale (seen in profile) thick, low, not narrowing to the top; when seen in front or from behind it gradually widens to the top; scape and legs, including the first tarsal joint, remarkably flattened, ratio of min/max diameters of scape and hind tibiae ≤ 0.4; head with emarginate occipital margin, but not cordiform and at most slightly wider than long; legs and scape with very dense decumbent pubescence; head, alitrunk and gaster with very dense decumbent pubescence; alitrunk dorsum with sparse, short erect hairs.

Notes. Karawajew's (1912) description of *L. fuliginosus* var. *orientalis* (workers) was very short and insufficient, and the most important diagnostic features of this form were not pointed at. The type localities of this species are "Koredschi und Dore, Halbinsel von Korea (19.VII.1900, P. Schmidt)" (Karawajew 1912, p. 582). In Karawajew's collection (IZK) I have found a couple of workers from Russian Far East and Korea, determined by Karawajew as *L. fuliginosus* var. *orientalis*. All of them undoubtedly belong to the same species. Furthermore, 17 workers among this material, collected in Primorsky Region of Russia ("Buhta Gaidamak, No. 3196, 21.V.1900, leg. P. Shmidt"), bear also the additional Karawajew's label "*Lasius fuliginosus* var. *orientalis* Karaw. Typus". However, they cannot formally belong to the type series, because in the original description another type locality and date of collecting were given. I do not know why Karawajew did such a mistake, especially because he usually worked very accurately and left his own collection for the next generations of myrmecologists in perfect conditions. Though types of var. *orientalis* seem lost, I believe that specimens, collected about in the same region as the types, and originally determined by Karawajew as the species he described, really belong to var. *orientalis*. Hence, I designate as the neotype of *L. fuliginosus* var. *orientalis* Karawajew the worker from "Buhta Gaidamak, No. 3196, 21.V.1900, leg. P. Shmidt", labelled by Karawajew as "Typus".

Wilson (1955) synonymised var. *orientalis* with *L. fuliginosus* with such comments: "... *Since the types are not available, synonymy in this case is tentative. The differences stated in the original description are of a trivial nature, and it would seem that if Karawajew had really had spathepus before him instead of fuliginosus, he would have noticed at least one of the several excellent characters which separate workers of these two species...*" (loc. cit., p. 143), though he never saw the types of this form. Yamauchi (1978) and Kupyanskaya (1989, 1990) repeated this Wilson's synonymy, while Espadaler et al. (2001) considered var. *orientalis* as the junior synonym of *L. nipponensis* (see Notes to the latter species, above). The name "*orientalis*" was also used by Kusnetzov-Ugamsky (1928, 1929); however, the specimens from Russian Far East, collected and investigated by him, belong to another species (see Notes to *L. capitatus*, above).

The most astonishing fact is that var. *orientalis* is neither *L. capitatus*, nor "oriental *fuliginosus*", nor *L. nipponensis*. All specimens from Karawajew's collection mentioned above, including the neotype, have the distinctly flattened antennal scape and the very thick, low petiolar scale (seen in profile), which is gradually widened to the apex when seen in front or from behind (see Figs 29–35). These diagnostic features completely match