



Fig. 1. *Simopelta minima* (Brandão), worker from Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil. A, head in full-face view; B, detail of the clypeal area and mandibles (note the single facet eye at the left of the head lateral margin, near the superior border of the antennal scape); C, Habitus in side view; (D) Habitus in dorsal view.

2000; Silva & Silvestre 2004) have demonstrated a pronounced partitioning, as well as low similarity, on species composition between epigaeic and hypogaeic ants. In effect, even at hypogaeic habitats ant species composition can varies according to soil deepness (Wilkie *et al.* 2007) and other factors. Another example is the substantial increase in the collection

records of rare ground-dwelling ants after the massive adoption of the Winkler apparatus in recent years (e.g. Agosti 1994; Brandão *et al.* 1999).

Alternatively, rare species may have low densities at a given locality for a variety of reasons. They may be rare immigrants from a nearby source population or could result