

Head, thorax (especially the sides), femora and petiolar scale bearing abundant long, slender grayish hairs, also present but not abundant on the gaster. Eyes hairy; tibiae with oblique hairs. Pubescence of the gaster long, appressed, fairly dense, but allowing the visibility of the integumental surface, which appears under strong light as a shining, finely shagreened surface. Legs, funiculi of antennae and gaster very dark reddish brown. Scapes, head, thorax and petiolar scale a very dark brown approaching black. Wings clear except for the basal one-third, which is tinged with brownish-yellow. The specimens are quite possibly faded through age in both type and paratype specimens.

The *paratype male* (ANS Type No. 1853-2) agrees closely with the type specimen, but lacks most of the ventral and posterior portions of the gaster, due to the attacks of museum pests.

Cresson described this species from among collections made by James Ridings in the Colorado Territory during the summer of 1864. According to information obtained from persons familiar with the Ridings material, the collection was done in the Denver-Pike's Peak area. Cresson's description was based principally on color, and apparently no distinction was made between pilosity and pubescence.

No mention could be found of this species in later myrmecological publications, but there seems to be no reason why *aterrima* should not be considered a good subspecies of *Formica rufa*, or at least a form related to that species. Since the male is very close to some of the same sex of other American forms of *rufa*, the former course would seem to be the wisest. One of the geographical races of *rufa* will eventually have to be synonymized as *F. rufa* subsp. *aterrima* Cresson, but this will be very difficult to bring about because of the similarity among the *rufa* males of the various subspecies and because of the presence of four or five of these subspecies in the vaguely defined original collecting area.