

TWO NEW ANTS FROM WESTERN NEVADA  
(Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

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Since the ant fauna of Nevada is virtually unknown the two new species described herein are of more than ordinary interest. Both were sent me by Dr. Ira La Rivers of the University of Nevada who collected them in the general region of Pyramid Lake, Washoe County, Nevada. One is a very distinct form of honey ant (*Myrmecocystus*) which I have named *pyramicus* because of the pyramid-like structure of the epinotum. The other is a harvesting ant (*Veromessor*) which, though related to *pergandei* (Mayr), is definitely different. This new form has been named *lariversi* in honor of its collector. Illustrations of *Myrmecocystus pyramicus* are included.

MYRMECOCYSTUS **PYRAMICUS** SMITH, new species

(Figs. 1, 2, 3,)

WORKER—Length 4.8 mm.

Mandible 8-toothed, the largest of the teeth being the first, second, fourth, sixth and last. Compound eye as in the *mexicanus* group: Large, protuberant, and with many facets, placed very close to the posterior corner of the head, its greatest diameter approximately one and one-half times the length of the first funicular segment. Ocelli extremely small. In profile, the pronotum and much of the mesonotum rather evenly and strongly convex, the posterior fourth to the posterior third of the mesonotum distinctly impressed; base of epinotum sharply ascending from meso-epinotal suture to meet the flat, declivous surface of the epinotum in a rather broad, bluntly rounded angle or "pyramid-like" structure; declivous surface approximately twice the length of the basal surface. In profile, the petiole high (higher than the epinotal spiracle), with a weakly convex anterior surface and a flat posterior surface, the two surfaces meeting above to form a strongly compressed (anteroposteriorly), sharp superior border; viewed posteriorly the petiole with dorsally converging sides and the superior border with a distinct emargination.

Dorsal and anterior surface of head and mandibles bearing a number of long, erect hairs, those on the anterior border of the clypeus unusually long. Lower surface of head with ammochaetae and