

TYPE LOCALITY: Nevada Dominion Mine, Pymarid Mining District, five miles west of Mullen Gap (Pyramid Lake), north end of Pah Rah Mountains (Nevada Highway 33), Washoe County, Nevada. The ants were collected by Ira La Rivers on April 7, 1951, from a colony in a small, open mound nest in a sand clearing of *Artemisia tridentata*, where the females and males were beginning to swarm near sundown.

Described from a holotype and 37 paratype workers. The holotype and 25 paratype workers have been placed in the collection of the United States National Museum under U. S. N. M. No. 61265. The remaining paratypes are in the collection of Dr. La Rivers. The five male and ten females have not been described as they do not offer good characters for recognition.

The paratypes vary especially in size, pilosity, and extent of the development of the "pyramid-like" structure of the epinotum. The range in size of this form cannot yet be positively stated on the basis of the few specimens examined. It is thought, however, to approach that of *navajo* Whlr., the major worker of which is almost 5 mm. in length. The range in length of my *pyramicus* series is approximately 3 to 5 mm. The pilosity of the thorax and petiole may vary from almost no erect hairs to a few as stated in the above description.

This new form belongs to the *mexicanus* complex as evidenced by the large eyes and their placement, by the small ocelli, and by the light to yellowish brown color of the body. In Creighton's 1950 publication, *Ants of North America* (Harvard Univ., Mus. Comp. Zool. Bul. 104:441) this ant keys to couplet four which includes *navajo* and *mojave*. Specimens have been carefully compared with cotypes of both these forms. From *navajo*, to which it is apparently most closely related, *pyramicus* can be distinguished by the dentition of the mandibles, pilosity of the body, and the shape of the epinotum and petiole. *M. pyramicus* has eight instead of nine teeth on the mandibles, and a pyramidshaped instead of a convex epinotum. The scape is free of erect hairs and the thorax and petiole are also either free of erect hairs or only have a very few, whereas in *navajo* there are numerous erect hairs on both the scape and thorax. The petiole of *pyramicus* is strongly compressed anteroposteriorly and the superior border is sharp and usually has a distinct emargination. *Navajo* has a rather thick petiole (anteroposteriorly) and the superior border is thick and blunt. *M. pyramicus* seems to be one of the most easily recognized forms of this genus in North America.