

(Borgmeier), *P. mancum* Mann and *P. brasiliense* Borgmeier, are unknown to me except from their descriptions, which indicate, however, they are also quite distinct from the California form.

In short, *P. californicum* differs significantly from all its North American and Neotropical congeners and does not show any noteworthy affinity with any of these species.

In its general habitus it is obviously much more closely related to the Eurasian species, *P. melinum* (Roger), a member of the *melinum* group of Brown. This group includes also the Japanese species, *P. itoi* (Forel). Although the latter is not available, Dr. Brown sent me a female of *P. melinum* and comparison with that species is possible. When *P. californicum* and *P. melinum* are placed side by side, the similarity is striking; in size, color, punctuation and configuration these ants are obviously very close. In *P. melinum* the occipital margin is evenly convex whereas in *P. californicum* the border is distinctly concave in the middle; the antennal scape is noticeably shorter in the Eurasian species, in full face view barely attaining the level of the hind margin of the posterior ocelli; in *P. californicum* the scape extends slightly above the level of the posterior ocelli. The frons is densely punctate, appearing granulose, and dull in *P. melinum*; in the case of *P. californicum* the punctures are finer, less distinct and the surface is slightly shining. Thoracic punctuation offers an excellent character for separating the two species. Although it is consistently coarser and denser everywhere in *P. melinum*, the distinction is most marked on the mesoscutum. Here, in *P. melinum*, the punctures are very crowded, with the surface appearing subgranulose; the individual punctures are difficult to distinguish. The mesoscutal punctures of *P. californicum*, while abundant, are discretely separated by shining interstices. The second gastric segment of *P. melinum* is abundantly marked by distinct punctures which are only slightly finer than those of the mesoscutum, obviously much larger than the diameter of the hairs arising from them. The Nearctic species has a very finely punctate second gastric segment, the punctures only slightly larger in diameter than the hairs arising from them, much finer than the mesoscutal punctures. The petiolar process of *P. melinum*, in lateral view, has the surface between the anterior and posterior angles emarginate, so that two spines are formed, one directed obliquely cephalad and the other obliquely caudad. In *P. californicum* the process is not emarginate and the entire, somewhat triangular process, is obliquely directly cephalad.

The above comparative comments apply solely to the females. The rarity of males makes it difficult to relate the type specimen to the males of other species. The clypeal configuration, wing venation and shape of the petiolar node adequately separate *P. californicum* from *P. croceum* and *P. silaceum*. I have seen no males of *P. pergandei*; that caste was described by M. R. Smith (1928), but not in sufficient detail for adequate comparative remarks. The following comments are therefore tentative. The length of the male described by Smith is given as 3.6 mm so that it may be seen that the western species is