

of the alitrunk in preference to "epinotum," more widely used by myrmecologists. The usage here is harmonious with that of other studies on hymenopterous insects (Wilson, 1955; Cole, 1968).

Holotypes of the three species described below are in the collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Paratypes will be distributed to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), Museum of Natural History, Geneva (MNHG), United States National Museum of Natural History (USNM) and the private collections of Professors A. C. Cole, Jr., W. S. Creighton, and G. C. Wheeler.

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*Myrmecocystus ewarti*, new species

Figure 1

*Diagnosis.*—A member of the *mexicanus* group closely related to *M. pyramicus* M. Smith: propodeum produced upward at junction of anterior and posterior faces; petiolar scale strongly compressed in profile; pronotum with two or more fully erect white hairs; disc of first gastric tergite with scattered erect white hairs; hind tibiae with few or no erect hairs.

*WORKER. Measurement.*—HL 0.76-1.30 (1.23); HW 0.70-1.30 (1.23); SL 0.93-1.36 (1.36); WL 1.10-1.80 (1.70); PW 0.46-0.83 (0.83).

Head shape varying from longer than broad in most workers to slightly broader than long in largest workers, CI 88-104 (100), a little shorter than scape; SI 102-136 (110). In frontal view head broadest at lower margin of eyes, sides slightly convex to straight, narrowed toward mandibular insertions. Occiput, in frontal view, somewhat flattened in middle, sides convex, not at all angulate. Eye large, 1.5 x length of first flagellar segment, EL 0.90-1.15 (0.93) x OMD. Mandible with seven distinct teeth, often with a small intercalary denticle between the penultimate and basal teeth.

Thorax slender to moderately robust, PW 0.37-0.50 (0.48) x WL. Basal face of propodeum pyramidally produced upward at juncture with posterior face, about half as long as posterior face.

Petiole compressed when viewed in profile, crest thin, weakly angularly excised in middle; in dorsal view twice as wide as long.

*Vestiture.*—Erect hairs sparse on head, confined to clypeus, frontal lobes and occipital areas. Erect pronotal pilosity sparse, but with at least a pair of fine, fully erect hairs which are about as long as apical width of scape; mesonotum with 3-6 erect hairs; propodeum without erect hairs at summit of declivity, or with one or two which are less than half as long as those of mesonotum. Petiolar scale with a few very short, inconspicuous erect hairs on crest. Disc of first tergite with scattered, short, fully erect blunt hairs; second and succeeding tergites with progressively longer discal hairs. Tibiae with very sparse, fine, decumbent to subdecumbent hairs on outer surfaces,