

another; IOD 3.5-4.0 x OD; OOD 2.5-3.0 x OD. Mandibular margin simple, with preapical notch and two small denticulae basad, apical tooth as broad at base as long. Clypeus usually without preapical transverse depression.

Petiolar scale in profile, higher than long, evenly thick from base to near summit where it is narrowly rounded to slightly angulate; crest, seen from front, angulate at sides, broadly and rather deeply emarginate; in dorsal view, about 2.25 x wider than long.

*Terminalia*: Fig. 2 Cc-e.

*Vestiture*.—White, appressed pubescence long, sparse on head and thoracic dorsum; more abundant on thoracic pleurae, particularly on propodeum; longest on gaster, but nowhere concealing surface. Erect hairs sparse, short on head and thorax, yellowish. Middle of first tergite, in profile, with abundant very short, suberect whitish hairs; tergites with scattered long to very long yellowish hairs, especially caudad and ventrally. Fore and hind wings fringed along apical and hind margins.

*Integument*.—Head shiny, with scattered fine punctures. Mesoscutum shiny with sparse fine punctures; propodeum, meso- and metapleurae duller, densely coriaceous, with scattered fine punctures; scutellum with a few very fine punctures. Gaster shiny, finely piligerously punctate.

*Color*.—Uniformly light to very dark brownish, appendages and mandibles lighter. Wings hyaline, veins and stigma light brownish.

*Type material*.—Holotype worker, allotype male, 18 ♀♀, 35 ♂♂, 305 ♀♀ paratypes. Pearblossom, 2 mi S, 3500 ft, Los Angeles Co., Calif., 12 February 1967 (R. R. Snelling). Additional paratypes: 1 ♀, 322 ♀♀, same locality, 20 March 1966 (R.R. Snelling). Holotype, allotype and most paratypes in LACM; nine paratypes in each of the following: AMNH, MCZ, MNHG, USNM and private collections of A. C. Cole, Jr., W. S. Creighton, and G. C. Wheeler.

*Etymology*.—It is my pleasure to dedicate this species to Professor W. S. Creighton for his outstanding contributions to the understanding of United States ants, with my thanks for his generosity and enthusiastic encouragement during this study.

*Habitat*.—The type series was taken in coarse, sandy soil above a dry wash on the edge of the Mojave Desert, in a mixed creosote bush-juniper-Joshua tree ecotone.

Additional samples are from Kern and Riverside Counties, in areas of mixed creosote bush and juniper. The known elevational amplitude is from 3000-4300 feet.

*Discussion*.—In Creighton's key (1950) this ant will key to *M. yuma* Wheeler. Creighton (1956) synonymized *M. yuma* under *M. lugubris*, but I believe that he was in error and recognize *M. yuma* as a valid species. The absence of conspicuous erect hairs on the antennal scapes and propodeum will readily separate workers of *M. creightoni* from *M. yuma* and *M. hammettensis*