

crenulate, edentate blade; third apical tooth separated from second by a brief diastema; basal tooth formed from the slightly raised obtuse angle separating the inner and posterior mandibular borders. Median anterior clypeal border minutely emarginate; median clypeal carina barely differentiated from surrounding sculptural elements; frontal area a shallow depression. Eyes almost hemispherical, their longest diameters spanning 12–15 facets. Frontal carinae and lateral suborbital carinae lacking. Occipital border evenly arched in frontal view. A distinct occipital carina closely encloses the nape, and extends anteromedially on each side below the head to terminate on the postgena at about the level of the posterior border of the adjacent eye, short of the genal suture. Antennae 12-segmented, club 3-segmented, differentiated by the relative length of its segments, rather than by a marked step in their thickness; scapes when extended exceeding occipital border by around 1/3 their length. In dorsal view, pronotal collar relatively broad; humeri evenly rounded. Mesonotum narrow, separated from pronotum by a shallow, depressed sutural remnant; dorsolateral borders extended as acute salient projections terminating a slightly raised obtuse transverse crest. Propodeal spines long, posterodorsolaterally divergent, almost straight, with apices minutely upturned. Metapleural lobes somewhat salient, narrowly rounded. Petiolar peduncle proportionately very long and distinctly set-off from the node; spiracular rims slightly raised in dorsal view; subpetiolar process a minute anteroventral angle; node rounded in all directions, almost hemispherical, slightly longer than wide in dorsal view. Postpetiole as illustrated, almost circular in dorsal view, minutely wider than long. Sting somewhat transversely flattened and blade-like.

Mandibles smooth, except for piligerous punctures and faint, effaced traces of longitudinal sculpturing on their bases and outer borders. Clypeus with spaced longitudinal rugae. Frons microreticulate, more so posteriorly; interstitial microsculpture obscure, except on each side between the antennal insertion and eye; sculptural intensity diminishing progressively below the eyes; postgenae essentially smooth. Mesosoma less intensively sculptured than head; sculpture of petiole and postpetiole even more reduced; gaster smooth and shining, with a few very short basal ribs surrounding its articular condyle. Pilosity as illustrated; the hairs tapered and apically pointed; those on gastral dorsum scattered, separated by almost their average length. Colour medium-dark

brown with a reddish-orange cast under magnification, scapes and legs a little lighter, antennal funiculi medium-brown.

FEMALE

The largest female paratype has HW 1.17, and the smallest: HL 1.27; HW 1.10; CI 87; SL 1.15; SI 105; scutum W 0.92; AL 1.90. Differing from the worker in the usual features. Ocelli small, surrounding a slightly raised triangle into which each is somewhat inserted and directed more-or-less outwards. Scapes relatively short, exceeding occipital border by about 1/4 their length when extended. Scutum lacking notaulices or parapsidal lines. Anterolateral corners of scutellum extended laterally as rounded, minutely bowl-shaped lobes (possible homologues of the worker mesonotal extensions). Petiolar peduncle shorter and more tapered than in worker. Postpetiole distinctly broader than long in dorsal view. Propodeal spines relatively short, less divergent than in worker; about as long as the petiolar peduncle, as also in the worker.

Sculpturing much as in worker; the frons more closely reticulate, with more distinct interstitial microsculpture; postgenae with quite strong, somewhat effaced sculpture. Mesosomal sculpturing relatively strong, more as on the frons. Pilosity and colour as in worker.

Leptothorax australis Wheeler

Leptothorax australis Wheeler, 1934: 60, worker. Type locality: Queensland, Cairns District. (*L. (Gonithorax) australis*). Holotype in MCZ (examined).

MATERIAL EXAMINED AND DISTRIBUTION

Known only from north Queensland (grid cells 16/145 and 17/145; provisionally also 11/142 (female record)). Modern records are: Bellenden Ker Range, cableway base station, worker, 100 m (Earthwatch/Queensland Museum, 25–31 Oct. 1981, QM); Palmerston N.P., 9 workers on branch of recently felled giant rainforest tree (B.B. Lowery, 5.8.1975, ANIC, BM(NH), GM, MCZ); 8 km W of Tully, near Rocky Ck Bridge, 3 workers, in dead vine, lowland rainforest (B.B. Lowery, 22.9.1980, ANIC, QM). An alate female provisionally identified as *L. australis* (see below) was collected much further north: 15 km W of Capt. Billy Creek, Great Dividing Range (11°40'S, 142°45'E), (G.B. Monteith, 4–9.vii.1975).

WORKER

The smallest and largest available specimens (both from Palmerston N.P.) have the following dimensions (mm): TL c. 2.3, 2.6; HL 0.74, 0.78;