

37. *Cryptocerus varians* F. Smith.

Soldier (Pl. VII, Figs. 1, 2 and 3). — Length 5–6 mm.

Head surmounted by an elliptical dish-shaped disk, $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, with a median anterior fissure extending back a little over $\frac{1}{3}$ of its length. The floor of the disk is raised in the middle just behind the fissure and again less prominently farther back; the edge is nearly or quite smooth in front but distinctly and somewhat irregularly crenellated behind. The disk completely conceals the head with the exception of its crenated and somewhat upturned posterior corners, between which the occiput is concave. Thorax nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad and nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as broad in front as behind. Pronotum with prominent and rather acute angles, and a high ridge, interrupted in the middle, across its posterior portion. Sides of epinotum with two broad, indistinct teeth in front of the prominent posterior angle. Petiole and postpetiole of equal breadth, or the latter but very little broader than the former, each produced laterally into a rather blunt or even slightly truncated tooth, that of the petiole being nearer the middle of the segment and somewhat smaller than the postpetiolar tooth. Gaster elongate elliptical, $1\frac{1}{3}$ times as long as broad, anteriorly marginate on the sides, with a deep, curved excision for the accommodation of the pedicel. Legs short and robust.

Subopaque, upper surface of cephalic disk shining, especially in front. Head, thorax, and petiole covered with circular foveolæ which are larger and more scattered on the head, especially on its anterior portion, much denser and somewhat smaller on the thorax and pedicel. Sides and declivity of epinotum finely and evenly granular. On the petiole and postpetiole the foveolæ are so close together that these segments appear coarsely reticulate-rugose. Gaster finely and evenly granular, with scattered punctures which are larger and denser and more like the thoracic foveolæ on the base and almost absent at the posterior end of the enlarged first segment. Legs very finely and evenly granular and covered with small shallow punctures.

Hairs very short, silvery white, scale-like, appressed, each in the centre of one of the foveolæ. Cephalic disk fringed with somewhat longer, erect, clavate hairs, and there are similar hairs on the tip of the venter.

Black or brownish black; gaster, legs, and antennæ deep reddish brown. Young callow specimens are yellow, somewhat older ones rich ferruginous red throughout.

Worker (Pl. VII, Fig. 4). — Length 3–4.25 mm.

Head a little narrower in front than behind, its posterior border nearly straight, with blunt posterior angles; eye in a deep rounded excision just in front of the posterior corner. Anterior corners rounded, in front separated by a deeply rounded median excision which permits the small mandibles to be seen from above. Thorax more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as broad, somewhat broader in front than behind, sharply marginate on either side. Promesonotal suture obsolete, mesoepinotal suture straight; the anterior corners of the mesonotum marked by a distinct tooth. Pronotum with distinct humeral angles and the epinotum with a distinct tooth on the side near its base. Petiole and postpetiole of equal breadth, each with a prominent tooth on either side, obliquely truncated at the tip. Gaster elliptical, flattened, roundly excised in the middle