

Leptogenys (Lobopelta) gaigei, new species

Figure 2

WORKER.—Length, 6.5–7 mm.

Long and slender; head, without the mandibles, about one and one-half times as long as broad, scarcely broader in front than behind, with rather straight sides, rounded posterior corners and nearly straight posterior border. Eyes large, moderately convex, situated in front of the middle of the head and about their own length from its anterior corners. Mandibles a little more than half as long as the head, rather broad, deflected at the tips, which bear only the terminal tooth. This is short; the blade is narrowed at the base but its median third is of uniform width; the external border is nearly straight, with a slight, abrupt impression at the basal third. Clypeus carinate, its median lobe triangular, not very acutely pointed, the carina distinctly convex in profile; lateral borders feebly bisinuate. Antennae long, scapes rather thick, narrowed basally and apically, extending somewhat less than one-third their length beyond the posterior corners of the head. All the funicular joints longer than broad, the second nearly twice as long as the first, the third

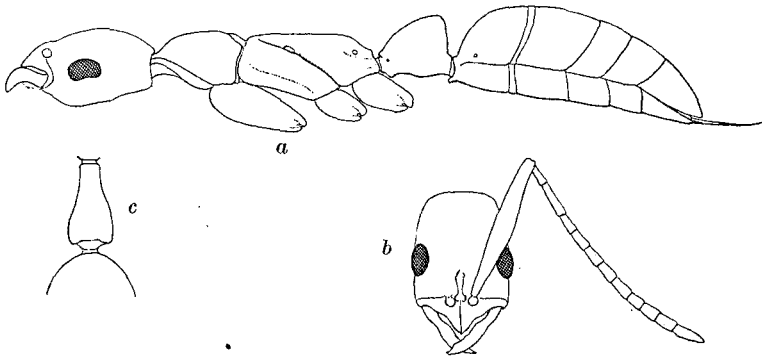


Fig. 2. *Leptogenys (Lobopelta) gaigei*, new species.
a, worker in profile; b, head; c, petiole, seen from above.

more than half as long as the second, the remaining joints, except the last, less than twice as long as broad. Thorax long, laterally compressed, its dorsal outline straight, except in the region of the mesoepinotal suture, where there is a distinct notch. Pronotum rounded on the sides, longer than broad; promesonotal suture distinct, mesonotum small, transversely subrectangular, not very convex; base of epinotum more than twice as long as the sloping declivity, which is not marginate on the sides and bears below a couple of small but distinct tubercles. Petiole much compressed laterally, the sides very concave anteriorly; in profile somewhat longer than high, truncated only behind, the anterior and dorsal surfaces forming together a continuous, evenly ascending curve; the ventral border with a small blunt tooth near its anterior end. From above the petiole is fully twice as long as broad, narrowed in front, with straight sides, somewhat concave anteriorly. Gaster small, constriction between first and second segments obsolete; sting and legs long.