

ginate mesonotum. Moreover, all recognized *Monacis* are Neotropical. Living members of the genus are almost wholly limited to the mainland from southern South America to southern Mexico, and all evidently nest arboreally. *M. bispinosa*, the most widespread species, also occurs on Trinidad and has been recorded, quite anomalously, from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands (Mayr, 1862). The latter record was based on a single queen and is almost certainly an error—or at most represents a population introduced by human commerce. No other *Monacis* has been found in the remainder of the West Indies north of Trinidad, despite the fact that the workers of most of the species, including *M. bispinosa*, are large, conspicuous insects.

The two species described below from the Dominican amber are typical *Monacis* not much different from two species (*rufescens* and *laminatus* respectively) in the living fauna. They are of exceptional significance because of the current absence of the genus from the Greater Antilles.

***Monacis caribbaea*, new species**

(Fig. 2)

*Diagnosis (worker).* A relatively small (Pronotal Width including humeral spines 0.49–0.66 mm), slender species resembling the modern *M. rufescens* of the Brazilian Amazon, differing from *rufescens* in its very sparse body pilosity and the more sharply angulate “shelf” separating the dorsal and declivitous (posterior) faces of the propodeum. *M. caribbaea* is also light reddish brown as opposed to light reddish yellow in *rufescens*, although its color might well have been altered during fossilization.

*Holotype worker.* Head Width 0.80 mm, Pronotal Width 0.51 mm. Alitrunk and petiole densely, finely, and evenly punctate, opaque; head still more finely punctate, grading to shagreened, and feebly shining. Body almost devoid of standing pilosity. Body mostly dark reddish brown, legs and parts of petiole and gaster light reddish brown.

*Paratype workers.* Eleven specimens in as many amber pieces: 2 from Palo Quemado (Pronotal Width of first 0.47 mm, second not measured), one from Bayaguana (no measurement), and 8 with no further locality within the Dominican Republic (Pronotal Width 0.49–0.66 mm).