7. In *Azteca* males the dorsal lobe (digitus) of the volsella is long and finger-like, extending posteriorly as far as the tips of the parameres (see Fig. 6E). They are proportionately broader in *Iridomyrmex* and reach only partway along the length of the parameres.

8. In most cases, the petiole of *Azteca* males is applied more broadly to the gaster than is the case in *Iridomyrmex*.

Using the combination of traits above, it has been possible to establish beyond much doubt that the species of the Dominican amber divide cleanly into either *Azteca* or *Iridomyrmex*, that none falls between the two genera, and that none is especially primitive in overall aspect. The most abundant ant species in the amber is the *Azteca* to be described below.

Azteca alpha, new species
(Figs. 5–8)

Diagnosis. A member of the *alfari* group, in which the worker caste is monomorphic or at most weakly polymorphic; *alpha* is also distinguished from the contemporary species belonging to this and other *Azteca* groups by the unique combination of traits in scape length, propodeal outline, and pilosity illustrated in Fig. 5. In particular, the worker appears especially close to *A. fiebrigi*. This Paraguayan species is distinguished from *alpha* by its slightly shorter scapes (which just reach the occipital corners in repose) and longer, denser body pilosity.

The male of *alpha* (Fig. 6) is close to or identical with that of *fiebrigi*, including the distinctive conformation of the scape and first two funicular segments. Both forms differ from *alfari*, the other member of the species group for which I have seen males associated with workers, in that *alfari* has the scape and first funicular segment short and slender and the second (rather than first) funicular segment conspicuously enlarged.

The queen of *alpha* (Fig. 7), encountered singly in two amber pieces and hence only tentatively associated with the *alpha* worker caste (as opposed to that of *eumeces*, to be described subsequently), is closely similar to the *fiebrigi* queen. It differs in its somewhat thinner petiolar node viewed from the side.

The name *alpha* alludes both to the early occurrence of the species in the geological record and to its numerical dominance in the Dominican amber.