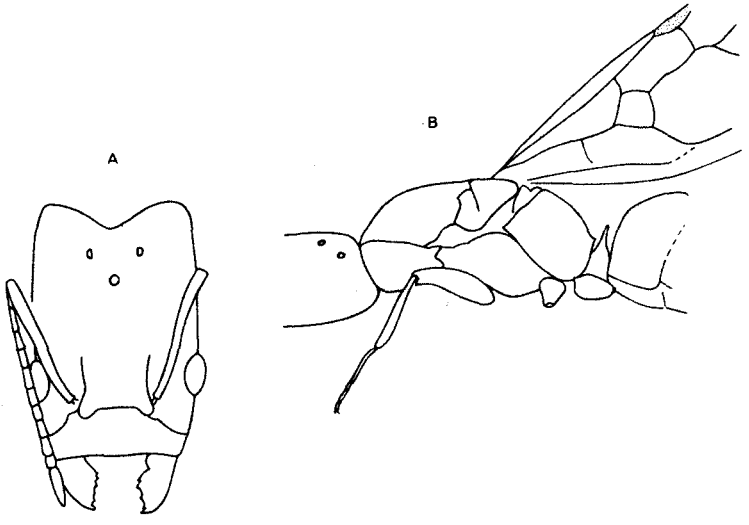

Fig. 7. *Azteca alpha* queen (tentative association). A, head; B, side view of body.

rence of *A. alpha* in pieces from almost all of the identified mines to date (the only exceptions are El Valle and Palo Alto) is evidence that at least the bulk of the Dominican ant fauna is relatively cohesive and did not stretch over a very long period of geological time.

The frequent occurrence of large numbers of *A. azteca* workers in the same amber piece, in a few cases 50 or more, also suggests that the species foraged in groups or at least recruited groups to food sources or enemies. Such behavior characterizes contemporaneous species of *Azteca*. So far as known all of the living *Azteca* species are arboreal, foraging onto the ground only secondarily, and it is reasonable to suppose this was true of *A. alpha* as well. In addition, at least some of the modern members of the *alfari* group are specialized for life on the moraceous tree *Cecropia* (Wheeler, 1942). What this means for *A. alfari*, whose workers were trapped in the gum of the leguminous tree *Hymenaea courbaril* (locust tree or "algarrobo") is unclear.

I have not excluded the possibility that more than one species exists in the large quantity of material placed with *A. alpha*. Many