

contributes new evidence that the most primitive known ant subfamily, the Sphecomyrminae, was widespread through the northern half of the world during the latter half of the Cretaceous Period.

### **Eocenidris, new genus**

*Diagnosis (worker).* An Eocene myrmicine genus distinguished from all other known genera by the following combination of worker traits: very small size; relatively narrow mandibles with oblique masticatory border bearing 6 irregularly shaped teeth; smoothly and strongly convex promesonotum apparently undivided by transverse sutures; propodeum armed with short, stout spines; and incrassate femora and tibiae.

*Type species: Eocenidris crassa.*

### **Eocenidris crassa, new species**

(Fig. 3)

*Diagnosis (worker).* Distinguished from other known ants by the combined traits just cited in the generic diagnosis.

*Holotype worker.* Head Width 0.40 mm; length of alitrunk from the anterior edge of pronotal collar to posterior edge of propodeal flange, 0.50 mm. Other visible features as shown in Fig. 3. The antennae and eyes are either missing or positioned in a way so as not to be made visible without endangering the specimen through fragmentation. Similarly, the posterior part of the abdomen could not be studied. In amber of the Middle Eocene (Claiborne) of Malvern, Arkansas. Collected by R. H. Mapes (see Saunders *et al.*, 1974). Deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

*Eocenidris crassa* is a typical myrmicine, possessing a set of traits that are advanced relative to those of *Agraecomymex* of the Baltic amber, the modern genera *Hylomyrma* and *Myrmica*, and other Myrmicinae considered primitive. Its existence demonstrates conclusively that a substantial amount of evolution had occurred within the subfamily, hence within the ants as a whole, by the middle of the Eocene.

*E. crassa* superficially resembles the species of the modern Neotropical genus *Oxyepoecus*, which are in some cases inquilines of *Pheidole* and *Solenopsis*, but it lacks ventral processes on either the