

A NEW HARVESTER ANT FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

WILLIAM P. MACKAY

Division of Biological Control, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521

ABSTRACT. *Pogonomyrmex montanus* (Formicidae: Myrmicinae) is described from specimens collected 18 Aug. 1978, 4 km NW Fawnskin, San Bernardino Co., California, at an altitude of 3,000 m. *Pogonomyrmex montanus* is most closely related to *P. salinus*, but may be easily distinguished by the shape of the superior lobe of the scape. Characters are given to distinguish it from other members of the *occidentalis* complex. The males are dimorphic in size. Most species in the genus *Pogonomyrmex* occur at lower elevations in hot dry habitats; they are typically desert or prairie ants. This species is unusual in that it occurs at high altitudes in pine forests.

In an investigation of the ants of the San Bernardino Mts. of southern California, a new harvester ant in the genus *Pogonomyrmex* was discovered. The biology of this interesting ant is being investigated and will be reported later. The description of this new species is presented now.

***Pogonomyrmex montanus*, new species**

Worker (HOLOTYPE) (My collection #2536-a; dimensional abbreviations as defined by Cole 1968.)

HL 1.60 mm, HW 1.70 mm, CI 106.25, SL 1.28 mm, SI 82.82, EL 0.38 mm, EW 0.26 mm, OI 23.75, WL 2.00 mm, PNL 0.56 mm, PNW 0.48 mm, PPL 0.56 mm, PPW 0.64 mm.

Mandible as illustrated in Fig. 1; seven teeth, somewhat blunt, apical tooth acute, slightly wider and somewhat longer than others; subapical slightly longer than first basal; third basal slightly larger than first, second, penultimate, and ultimate teeth; ultimate basal not offset from straight basal mandibular margin. Base of antennal scape as illustrated in Fig. 2; basal enlargement well developed; superior lobe prominent, strongly convex, well set off from shaft by broadly rounded angle; inferior declivity interrupted by a strong point; basal flange strong, extending slightly beyond apex of superior lobe; lip broad but thin. Frontal lobes large, well developed. Cephalic rugae strong, well separated, divergent at posterior corners of head, forming a few poorly defined concentric whorles above eye. Interrugal spaces densely and strongly punctate, the punctures producing a beaded appearance.