

Types — Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul State: Sinimbu, elevation 200 m, September 1960, F. Plaumann leg. 5 workers (holotype and paratypes); Pardinho, elevation 100 m, September 1960, F. Plaumann leg. 4 workers (paratypes). All types in WWK.

Discussion — On account of the abruptly raised petiolar node which in profile is highest in front of middle, of the shining and mesially crested ventral face of petiolar peduncle, the absence of decumbent hairs on gaster, the larger size, this species is very close to *minensis*, from which it differs as follows: Slightly larger; darker color; shape of head capsule (cf. Figs. 1 and 5); frontal carinae somewhat more expanded laterad; rugae on head and thorax stronger, on the latter predominantly longitudinal; epinotal spines shorter and more widely separated from each other at base; petiolar and postpetiolar nodes finely reticulate-punctate, subopaque and coarsely reticulate-rugose or longitudinally rugose on disc, petiolar node in profile forming between its anterior face and the dorsal face of peduncle an obtuse angle.

R. lacertosa is even farther removed from *pellecta* by the stronger inter-rugal microsculpture, the shining and longitudinally crested ventral face of petiole, the abruptly raised petiolar node, the lack of decumbent hairs on gaster, the denser pilosity, and the strikingly oblique, not decumbent, hairs on scapes and legs.

Variation — The measurements of the 8 paratypes vary as follows: head length 0,83-0,91 mm; head width 0,72-0,80 mm; thorax length 0,93-1,04 mm. The compound eyes are variable in size and number of facets according to body length: larger specimens have about 20, smaller specimens only 15 facets. Upper angle of metasternal lobe quite variable, more often ed than angulate. Transverse carinules on basal face of epinotum 6-7 i ber when distinguishable; sometimes highly irregular and difficult to out as regards carinules 2-5.

KEY TO THE SPECIES FROM CONTINENTAL SOUTH AMERICA

WORKERS

1. Erect or oblique hairs confined to the circumoral area, legs and apex of gaster; head and thorax without conspicuous rugae or costae 2
- Erect or oblique hairs on the entire body, occasionally lacking on head; body sculpture always coarser, usually with pronounced costae or rugae 3
2. Eyes small with only 6-7 facets; pubescence sparse on body *bruchi* Santschi
- Eyes larger, with more than 10 facets; pubescence rather dense on body *foreli gaigei* Forel
3. Dorsum of head lacking erect hairs; erect hairs on gaster scarcer than conspicuous decumbent hairs *curvipubens* Emery
- Dorsum of head with erect hairs; decumbent hairs on gaster either totally absent or decidedly scarcer than erect hairs 4