

divided by a transverse suture into anepisternum and catepi-sternum. Epinotum not so strongly constricted nor depressed as in *brachycola*; basal face often with a faint, saddle-shaped impression in the middle; declivous face less oblique than in *brachycola*. Metasternal angle more extensively striolate. Mesial spur of middle tibiae long and projecting beyond apex of tibia. Extensor face of hind tibiae with spine-like setae on apical half. Petiole as shown in Figs. 9 and 10; note the long subpetiolar process. Sternum I of gaster with a marginate tuberosity beneath petiolar insertion.

**Female.** — Head length 1.86-2.00 mm; head width 2.13-2.29 mm; maximum diameter of eyes 0.53-0.67 mm; thorax length 3.47-4.00 mm. Similar to the worker with the usual differences of the caste. Wings as in *brachycola*, hind wing with 8 hamuli.

**Distribution.** — The species is now known from the lower Amazon valley, southeastern Brazil and adjoining Misiones territory in the Argentine.

**Specimens examined:** 8 workers and 4 females, as follows: Brazil, São Paulo State: São Paulo City, Ipiranga, October 17, 1907, H. Luederwaldt leg. 3 workers and 3 females (syntypes, DZSP, WWK); same locality and same collector, August 23, 1908, 3 workers (DZSP, WWK); Rio de Janeiro State: Ilha Grande, June 12, 1944, H. Sick leg. 1 worker (WWK); Guanabara State: Rio de Janeiro, Manguinhos, Nov. 1945. H. S. Lopes leg. 1 worker (WWK); Amapá Territory: Serra do Navio, October 20, 1957, K. Lenko leg. 1 female (WWK).

**Bionomics.** — According to Luederwaldt (1926: 238), who discovered two colonies of the present species in termite nests of *Syntermes dirus* Burmeister (probably not *dirus* but *wheeleri*, cf. Araújo, 1958: 211-2), single colonies seem to consist of very few individuals and alate sexual offspring is found in the nest in October. One nest contained only three individuals (incipient colony?). H. S. Lopes, as reported by Borgmeier (1937: 223), found the same species at Manguinhos, Rio de Janeiro City, likewise in a nest of *Syntermes* sp.

**Note.** — Three stray females, one alate, from Brazil, Goiás State, Jataí, Fazenda Cachoeirinha, collected by K. Lenko on October 27 and 28, 1962 (DZSP, WWK), are of strikingly smaller size but seem nevertheless to belong to the present species, inasmuch as they agree in all diagnostic characters. The alate specimen measures as follows: Total length 10 mm; head length 1.44 mm; head width 1.60 mm; thorax length 2.80 mm; maximum diameter of eyes 0.45 mm. The hind wing possesses 10 hamuli. It is hard to say whether these are nanitic specimens of *gigas* or representatives of a closely related and still undescribed species.