

***Megalomyrmex drifti* Kempf**

(Figs. 9-12)

Megalomyrmex drifti Kempf, 1961: 504, figs. 9-11 (Worker, female; Suriname: Dirkshoop).

When describing this species upon a small series of workers and one female, taken together from the same soil sample in primary forest, I had in my collection numerous specimens from southeastern Brazil, all berlesate samples collected by Mr. F. Plaumann, which appeared close to, but specifically distinct from, *drifti*. In the meantime, I have received more material of this group, including a decisive sample from Peru. In spite of the conspicuous differences between the extremes, i. e. the *drifti* types and the numerous southeastern Brazilian specimens, intermediates have been found that apparently bridge the gap, so that the ensemble, at this stage of the investigation, seems nothing more than a morphocline of the same species. In the following I want to characterize briefly the principal morphs and cite the pertinent specimens:

a) *drifti* (typical): Workers (and females) distinguished by smaller size, scape shorter than head width, promesonotal suture completely absent, propodeum broadly rounded at posterior corner of basal face (Figs. 11, 12). Measurements: HL 0.48-0.59 mm; HW 0.39-0.48 mm; SL 0.37-0.46 mm; WL 0.59-0.69 mm; HfL 0.39-0.48 mm. Specimens from Suriname (*drifti* types) and from Brasil, São Paulo State: Jacupiranga (Plaumann leg.) and Tabatinga (Lenko leg.); Mato Grosso State: Utiariti (Lenko leg.).

b) Variant from southeastern Brasil: Workers (and females) distinguished by larger size, scape longer than head width, promesonotal suture vestigial on dorsum of thorax, propodeum distinctly angulate to subdentate at posterior corner of basal face (Figs. 9, 10). Measurements: HL 0.60-0.70 mm; HW 0.51-0.59 mm; SL 0.53-0.63 mm; WL 0.77-0.94 mm; HfL 0.53-0.65 mm. Specimens from Brasil (all taken by F. Plaumann, unless noted otherwise): Rio Grande do Sul: Nova Petrópolis, Barros-Cassal, Morro Reuter, Sinimbu; Santa Catarina: Chapecó, Nova Teutônia; Paraná: Bocaiuva do Sul, Laranjeiras, Rio Azul; São Paulo: Serra dos Agudos Grandes, Jacupiranga (where also the typical *drifti* was taken in the same sample, but not necessarily from the same colony), Serra da Cantareira (Kempf leg.); Rio de Janeiro: Itatiaia (T. Borgmeier leg.); Guanabara: Floresta da Tijuca (A. C. Campos Seabra).