

sinuous, the shaft a bit broader; preapical dentition different: proximal preapical tooth by far the longest and strongest, the two distal ones minute and subequal (Fig. 5).

2. Tergum I of gaster with an anterior narrow spongiform border and distinct, though very short, basidorsal costulae. Sternum I bearing anteriorly a weak but distinct pad of spongiform hairs.

TYPES. COLOMBIA, Valle: Pichindé valley, SW of Cali, 1570 m, in rain forest, March 22, 1967, R. B. Root & W. L. Brown legg. 9 workers (MCZ: holotype and 5 paratypes; WWK: 3 paratypes).

DISCUSSION

The extreme resemblance between *laevipleura* and the present species dispenses with a detailed description. The mandibular differences as pointed out above are so significant as to warrant the proposition of a new species based on these characters alone. The small divergences on the base of gaster, and also the overall shape of head and mandibles imitate the condition found in *connectens*, but this has the preapical dentition of mandibles as in *laevipleura*, and the standing hairs broadly spatulate.

S. gemella, as is evident, belongs to the *connectens*-group of Brown (1962: 247-248).

Neostruma metopia Brown

(Figs. 6, 7)

Neostruma metopia Brown, 1959: 11-12, fig. 2 (female; Panama Canal Zone: Barro Colorado Island).

Worker (undescribed). Total length 1.58-1.60 mm; head length 0.41 mm; head width 0.29-0.31 mm (cephalic index 72-75); mandibular length 0.125 mm (mandibular index 31); head depth 0.23-0.24 mm (index of cephalic depression 56-59); Weber's

length of thorax 0.39-0.40 mm. Color yellowish brown; gaster darker; antennal funiculi and tarsomeres of legs pale testaceous. Integument sharply reticulate-punctate, opaque, with the following exceptions: mandibles sparsely and finely superficially punctate, quite shining; sides of thorax, on mesopleura and metapleura, with an extensive smooth, highly polished area; gaster smooth and shining; except the base of tergum I which bears over 12 fine longitudinal costulae (the intervals finely punctate) which are much shorter than length of postpetiole. Dorsum of head, including clypeus, with sparsely set, decumbent to subdecumbent, spoon-shaped hairs; fringing hairs on clypeus and frontal carinae likewise spoon-shaped and decumbent on sides of head, porrect but curved on clypeus; promesonotum with four long, flagelliform hairs, one on each corner. Petiolar node with two, postpetiolar node with four longer, suberect but curved hairs which are apically thickened but not quite remiform; an additional long hair, apically strongly curved and not thickened, on each side of postpetiolar dorsum; tergum I of gaster with sparsely-set longer, curved, apically incrassate hairs, leading edge of scape with five spoon-shaped, curved hairs, the first, second and fifth, starting from the base, curved apicad, the third and fourth curved mesad; mandibles, scapes and legs, especially extensor face of femora and tibiae with strongly curved but not appressed, apically thickened, small hairs.

Mandibles relatively short, their length about one third of head length, apical fork small with intercalary denticles. Inner side of shaft with three minute preapical denticuli, a stronger submedian tooth, and basad of the latter with two additional medial denticuli; basal lamella not seen since no dissection was made.

Head as shown in Fig. 6; note the laterally greatly expanded and posteriorly shallowly excised occiput. Clypeus flat, with