

head and pronotum typically reflect light. Dorsum of the mesonotum with distinct depressions, its surface remaining reflective. Depressions of the propodeum are deeper and associated with stronger granulation, its surface becoming opaque. The sculpture described above is weakly developed in southern specimens, a condition again similar to *D. mariae*. The integument of both petiole and gaster is smooth and shining in strong light, though the petiole is partially granulate in northern specimens. Erect hairs are present on the head, alitrunk, and gaster. This body pilosity consists of fewer hairs in southern specimens, another variation in the direction of *D. mariae* where such hairs are absent. There are no erect hairs on the scapes. In dorsal view, the length of propodeum exceeds its width, Fig. 1d, and the lateral profile of the alitrunk is as in Fig. 2d. The integument within concavity of the declivous face of the propodeum is smooth and shining, though faintly granulate in northern specimens. The scapes, lying in natural repose above the head, surpass the occipital border in northern specimens by a smaller fraction of their length than observed in southern specimens. In lateral view, the petiole of northern specimens is more robust. These differences may only reflect geographic variability; however, differences also exist in nest behavior as discussed below and these ants deserve closer study.

Geographic Distribution: The type locality is New Jersey by restriction, see Creighton (1950), and the species as presently defined occurs from Nova Scotia westward to Illinois and Oklahoma: southward the distribution reaches Florida and Mississippi (Smith, 1979). As noted above, *D. mariae* has been documented only in the northern portions of the southern states. Creighton (1950) cited specimens of *D. pustulatus* from Brownsville in south Texas but the record was omitted by Wheeler and Wheeler (1985) in their recent checklist of Texas ants.

Dolichoderus taschenbergi

Worker Diagnosis: The insect is basically a concolorous dark often blackish ant. The mandibles and antennae are light brown; head, alitrunk, legs and petiole dark brownish-black. The gaster is dark brown but somewhat less so than head and alitrunk. Again color is interpreted widely; Wheeler (1905a) described a group of individuals as "...sparkles like a mass of jet beads".

Structurally, a fine granulation sculpts the head particularly behind the eyes where distinct but shallow foveolae also occur. A similarly delicate

granulation or punctation sculpts the pronotum. The fine sculpture and dark color generally reduce reflectivity of head and pronotum to a dull sheen. A more strongly developed granulation exists on the mesonotum plus fine, longitudinal striations. The stronger granulation continues over the propodeum with distinct depressions. The mesonotum and propodeum are essentially opaque reflecting little or no light. The integument of petiole and especially gaster is smooth and shining in strong light. There are a few erect hairs usually on head and occasionally a hair (rarely 2 or 3) on anterior of pronotum and 1 or 2 hairs occasionally on the first segment of the gaster. These hairs are shorter in length and much less numerous than observed in *D. pustulatus* or especially in *D. plagiatus* and *D. species A*. No erect hairs on scapes. In dorsal view, length and width of the propodeum are approximately equal, Fig. 1b, a characteristic of this species. The lateral profile of alitrunk as in Fig. 2b. The integument within concavity of the declivous face of the propodeum is

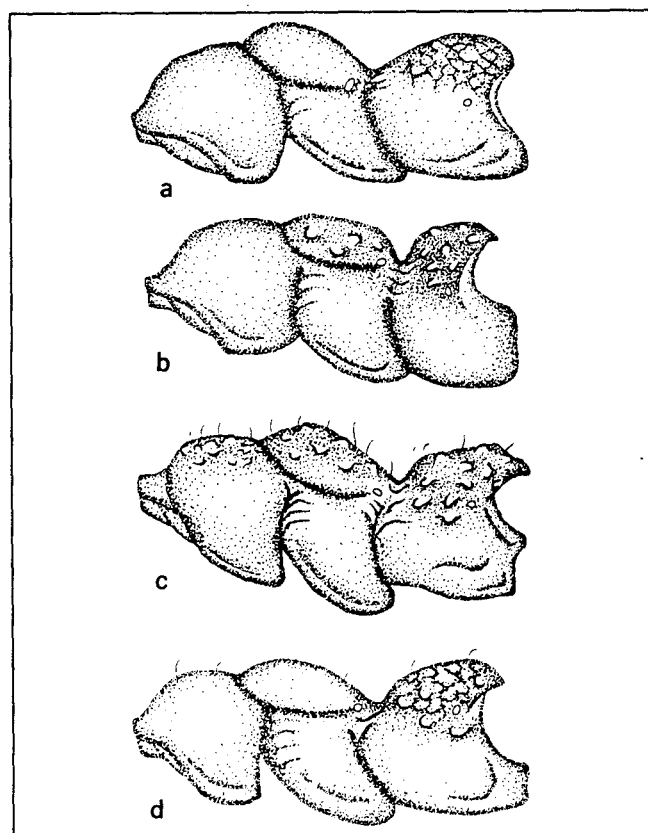


Figure 2. Lateral views of the alitrunk for (a) *Dolichoderus mariae*, (b) *D. taschenbergi*, (c) *D. plagiatus* and (d) *D. pustulatus*.