

Comparative Survey of Mouthparts of Representative Species

Most of the descriptions of mouthparts are accompanied by drawings of the individual trophic components. The labium has been omitted from many of the drawings. The glossa of the labium is often reconstructed, and the maxillary comb is drawn as seen through the transparent galea. The species of ants that were dissected are grouped under the subfamily designations recognized by Brown (1954). In the descriptions and illustrations, the species are arranged alphabetically by genus and species within their respective subfamilies.

Family Tiphidae

Subfamily Methochinae

Species examined:

Methocha stygia (female) (Plate 9)

Labrum (fig. 14). The labrum is not cleft, but is slightly emarginate at the center of its distal margin. Inserted slightly behind and along the distal margin is a row of long setae. The hemocoel almost fills the entire labrum.

Mandible (fig. 16). The masticatory and basal margins are not distinct from one another. An apical tooth and a subapical one are present; the trulleum and mandalus are absent.

Maxilla (figs. 17–19). The maxillary palpus is 6-segmented, and the stipes is without distinctive sculpture. The galea has a maxillary comb of 3 setae; the lacinia is without a distinct comb.

Labium (fig. 15). The labial palpus is 4-segmented. The premental shield is not clearly defined or heavily sclerotized, and extends laterally to cover the sides of the labium. The “lapping surface” of the glossa appears to be covered with rows of setae. Epimental sclerites are visible but not clearly defined, and they do not terminate in the expansive raquettes. Subglossal brushes are present and paraglossae are absent.