Tribe Cheliomyrmecini – ns

Species examined:

Cheliomyrmex megalonyx (soldier)

Cheliomyrmex morosus (soldier, worker, male) (Plates 48–51)

Labrum. The labrum of soldiers and workers is emarginate and cleft (fig. 190), while that of the male is emarginate and cleftless (fig. 193). The labra of C. megalonyx and C. morosus are indistinguishable from one another. The shape of the male labrum is considerably different from that of the worker and soldier castes, and the hemocoel of the male occupies most of the labrum (fig. 193), whereas the hemocoel of the soldier and worker consists of 2 arms, one extending into each lobe and narrowly connecting behind the median cleft (fig. 190). Tubercles are present in the worker and soldier (fig. 190), but not in the male. Long setae are abundant on the external face of the male labrum.

Mandible. The mandible of the soldier is cylindrical and falcate with an apical tooth and 2 large subapicals (fig. 189). The mandibles of the soldiers of C. megalonyx and C. morosus are indistinguishable from one another. The worker mandible is flattened and triangular, with 1 apical and 2 subapical teeth. The masticatory margin is also provided with a series of denticles. The masticatory and basal margins are not clearly separated in either the worker or soldier. This is true also of the male, whose mandible is long, cylindrical, and falcate (fig. 194). With a single apical tooth, the internal margin of the mandible is smoothly curved proximad until it bulges out, forming a small shelf that bears a comb of rigid setae. The trulleum and mandalus are present in both species and in all castes examined, except in the male, which has no trulleum.

Maxilla. The maxillary palpus is 2-segmented in both species and all castes examined (figs. 191, 196). Although the shape of the stipes, in the soldiers and the workers examined, varies little, there is a detectable difference in the structure of the lateral shoulder between C. megalonyx and C. morosus (fig. 191). In each, the lateral shoulder bears 2 or 3 stout setae. A transverse groove on the surface divides the stipes into 2 parts. This stipital groove, however, is weakly developed in the soldiers and workers (fig. 191). and is totally absent in the male (fig. 196). The proximal external face of the stipes in the soldiers and workers bears 3 or 4 setae. The external surface of the male stipes bears numerous setae, and its lateral shoulder has 8 or more stout setae. The stipites are moderately sclerotized. The galea and lacinia are relatively constant in shape in both species and all castes (figs. 192, 195). The galeal crown is flattened and not prominent. It bears numerous setae. The galeal comb is present and conspicuous, and consists of 8 or more large and uniquely shaped setae (figs. 192, 195). The lacinial comb is composed of many small setae.

Labium. The labial palpus is 3-segmented in all cases (figs. 197, 198), although in the male of C. morosus, segments 2 and 3 are partially fused.