

A NEW SPECIES OF *CAMPONOTUS*
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)
FROM NEVADA

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A series of specimens from a colony of carpenter ants, collected by Dr. and Mrs. George C. Wheeler in western Nevada, was sent to me with a request for identification. These ants belong to the subgenus *Myrmentoma*, and when first examined it seemed they might be *Camponotus (M.) anthrax* Wheeler. However, closer study showed that the antennal scapes surpassed the occipital corners by a considerable distance, thereby ruling out that species. In Creighton's key (The Ants of North America. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 104: 1-585 [pp. 382-390] 1950), the specimens run easily to the species, *Camponotus (M.) nearcticus* Emery, but when compared to undoubted samples of *nearcticus* the Nevada insects displayed a number of subtle though demonstrable differences, which led to their being considered representatives of a new species. The ants were also submitted to Dr. Creighton, and he concurs with this view.

Camponotus (Myrmentoma) nevadensis sp. nov.

MAJOR: Length, 7.0-7.5 mm; head length (excluding mandibles), 1.55-1.63 mm; head width, 1.58-1.72 mm; head index, 1.02-1.06; thorax length, 1.89-2.23 mm.

Head, without mandibles, slightly wider than long; occipital border straight, occipital angles rounded but distinct; lateral margins of the head almost parallel, but converging gradually toward the mandibular insertions; clypeus a little broader than long, anterior border emarginate as in all members of the subgenus *Myrmentoma*, the notch semi-circular and deep; frontal carinae lyrate and diverging, but posterior extremities again parallel. Antennae slender, scapes widened slightly toward tips and projecting beyond occipital corners by an amount approximately equal to length of the first funicular segment. Eyes flat or feebly convex, placed a little behind middle of head. Ocelli extreme-

ly minute, represented only by dimples. Mandibles stout, slightly curved, and furnished with 5 strong, subequal teeth.

Thoracic dorsum moderately convex, the pronotum flatter; angles between the pronotum and the propleurae visible but rounded and not prominent; mesoëpinotal suture very faint and in profile indicated only by a slight impression. Basal and declivious faces of epinotum connected by a somewhat gibbous or bulbous angle, the declivity thereby made concave. Petiolar scale narrow in profile, with lower anterior face vertical, upper anterior face receding, and the two meeting in a distinct angle; superior border of the petiole rounded but slightly pointed; petiolar spiracles unusually minute and directed forward. Gaster of usual camponotine shape, somewhat less than one-half the total length of the insect. Head and gaster exactly the same width, 1.72 mm; thorax 1.12 mm in width at widest point of prothorax.

Sculpture: Head and gaster moderately shining, thorax subopaque. Frons, clypeus, and mandibles obviously shagreened; mandibles finely rugulose; genae and occiput with notably finer shagreening and therefore quite shining; well-spaced punctures present on all surfaces of the head, including the mandibles, but piligerous foveolae are lacking from the cheeks. Thorax coarsely shagreened and matte, petiole and gaster only finely shagreened.

Pilosity: Hairs long, delicate, and pointed, yellow in color; present on clypeus, frons, vertex, gula, mandibles (very short), pronotum, mesonotum, epinotal angle, crest of petiole, coxae, legs (very few), and all surfaces of gaster. Pubescence dilute, consisting of very minute, widely spaced hairs on the head, thorax, gaster, scapes, and legs.

Color: Head, antennae, petiole, and gaster black; thorax deep brownish black with sutures and pleurae somewhat paler; coxae and other podomeres brown; mandibles dark reddish, and teeth black.

MINOR: Length, 5.0–5.5 mm; head length (excluding mandibles), 0.96–1.09 mm; head width, 0.86–1.02 mm; head index, 0.89–0.94; thorax length, 1.42–1.68 mm.

Similar to the major in most respects except size. Head proportionately smaller; clypeal emargination weaker and less noticeable. Antennal scapes project beyond the occipital corners by an amount slightly over one-half their total length. Sculpture and pilosity same as for the major. Color similar except that scapes, propleurae, mesopleurae, and epinotal sides are lighter and a yellowish brown in tone, particularly the sides of the prothorax and scapes; funiculi and legs brown.

MALE: Length, 7.0–7.5 mm; head length (excluding mandibles), 1.05–1.06 mm; head width, 1.09–1.12 mm; head index, 1.03–1.06; thorax length, 2.41–2.54 mm.

Head (excluding mandibles) slightly wider than long; eyes large, convex, and projecting minutely beyond the lateral margins; sides of the head between eyes and mandibular insertions concave. Ocelli distinct but not elevated on an occipital prominence. Clypeus broad, more than twice as wide as long, anterior emargination wide and shallow. Frontal carinae as in worker major. Antennae slender, scapes a little longer than head and extending beyond occipital borders for an amount equal to one-half their total length; first funicular segment swollen at distal end. Mandibles slender, edentate, but having apex angular and pointed.

Thorax voluminous, dorsum of mesoscutum flat, scutellum slightly bulbous and convex. Mayrian furrows absent; parapsidal furrows distinct; metanotum narrow, transverse; epinotum rounded, much higher than long. Petiole low, rounded, with superior border blunt and broadly but weakly emarginate. Gaster slender, dorsal surface flattened. Genitalia prominent, the stipites with straight terminal process, volsellae with curved and somewhat hooked process, and the sagittae thin and blade-like. Cerci exposed.

Sculpture: Head and thorax shagreened and subopaque to moderately shining; gaster shagreened but more noticeably shining.

Pilosity: Hairs long but sparse, few present on the head, mesonotum, metanotum, epinotum, more abundant on crest of the petiole and dorsum of the gaster; very few hairs on the legs, but several conspicuous hairs at tips of the scapes, on vertex, clypeus, and mandibles.

Color: Head, thorax, legs, and scapes black; funiculi, mandibular tips, tarsal tips, and gaster brown to yellowish brown. Wings pale straw-colored and transparent, the stigma brownish yellow.

HOLOTYPE: Worker major (herewith described; max. size), deposited in the author's collection.

Paratypes: 6 majors, 51 media and minor workers, and 12 males in the author's collection, and in the collections of George and Jeanette Wheeler, and W. S. Creighton.

The ants representing this new species were collected from one colony at Fuller Lake, elevation 6000 ft, 3 mi. S of Verdi, Nevada, September 28, 1968, by Dr. and Mrs. George C. Wheeler, and were recorded in their collection under Nevada number 493, Washoe County.

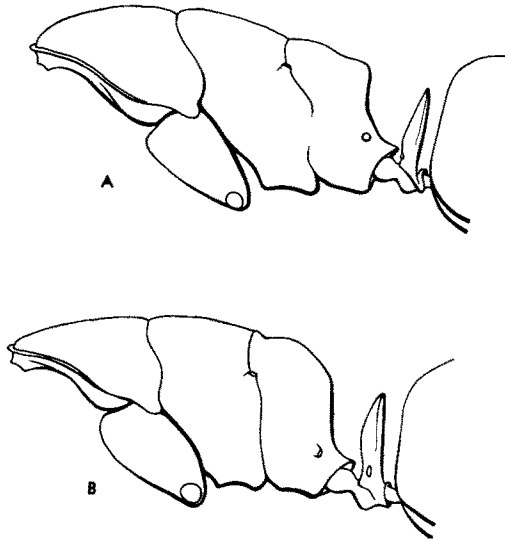


Fig. 1. Thorax and petiole. A — *Camponotus (M.) nevadensis* sp. nov.; B — *C. (M.) nearcticus* Emery.

Camponotus nevadensis may be distinguished from its closest relative, *C. nearcticus*, by means of the following considerations (Figs. 1 and 2): antennal scapes of the major surpass the occipital border by the length of the first funicular segment whereas in *nearcticus* they exceed the border only by a distance equal to the greatest width of the scape; pronotum more convex (flatter and sloping forward in *nearcticus*); epinotal base slightly concave and passing to the declivity through a definite bulbous angle (depressed slightly behind the mesoepinotal suture with the angle between base and declivity much rounded in *nearcticus*); entire dorso-ventral depth of the thorax greater than in *nearcticus*; in profile, the anterior face of the petiole angled, petiolar spiracle minute and directed forward, epinotal spiracle flat and facing laterally (*nearcticus* differs in all these respects); in color, the head, thorax, appendages, and abdomen are black with a faint brownish tinge on the thorax (by contrast, *nearcticus* is quite variable, some specimens being dark but others having a brownish or reddish thorax often maculated dorsally with dark patches, reddish petiole, and the anterior part of the head and the mandibles dark reddish or brown; legs reddish brown; other specimens may be even lighter with head brown, thorax and legs yellowish, and gaster brown).

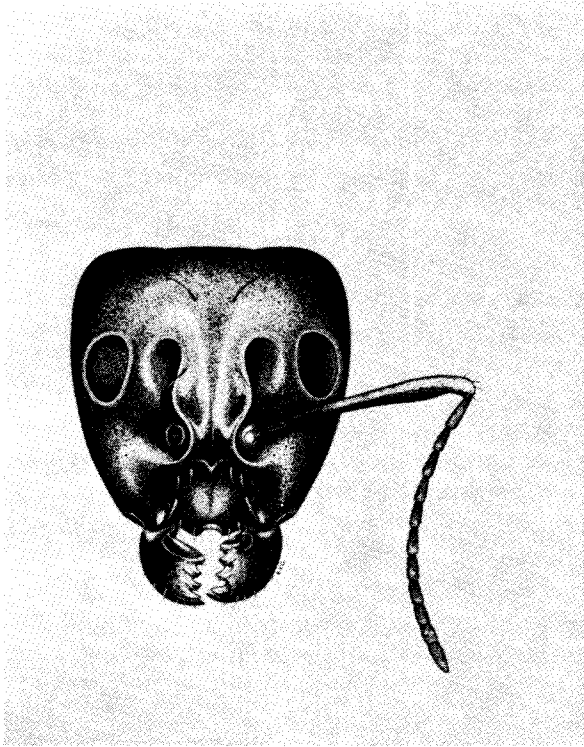


Fig. 2. Head of *Camponotus (M.) nearcticus* Emery.