



**Figure 1.** Heads of *Stegomyrmex vizottoi* workers from Mirassol, São Paulo state, Brasil. A) Full-face view. Note the foveolae, rugulae, and clubbed hairs. The flexible hairs at the clypeus and mandibles are not employed in earth-capturing. B) Transverse section of the anterior portion showing the greatly enlarged lobes of the antennal carinae (ac), scrobe (as), and base of scape (sc). Head width across eyes = 1 mm

conceal the antennae (Fig. 1). In addition to accommodating the antennae, the expanded antennal carinae provide a shield for the compound eyes, suggesting cryptic habits. Eye defense is enhanced when the antennae are withdrawn (Fig. 2). The scrobe is not limited ventrally by a carina.

This situation is totally different from the one found in the Basicerotini and Attini, tribes traditionally considered close to the *Stegomyrmecini*. In these tribes the compound eyes are always fully exposed, although in some genera the exposure corresponds to a notch at the frontal lobes. Furthermore, in *Basiceros*, the genus considered the most generalized living basicerotine, the antennal fossae, where the base of the scape articulates, are distinct from the scrobe, which accommodates only the funiculus. The eyes are placed on the edge of the antennal carina, above the scrobe, and are protected by the greatly expanded scapes when they are held against the sides of the head. In the Attini, although the position of the compound eyes is similar to that in *Stegomyrmex*, the scrobes can even surpass the vertex and are limited ventrally by a conspicuous carina, sometimes interrupted at eye level.

Hölldobler and Wilson (1986) described the differences in types of hairs between *Basiceros* and *Stegomyrmex*. *S. vizottoi* presents (Fig. 2), as a diagnostic pattern of the species (Diniz, 1990), only clubbed hairs on the dorsum of the head and pronotal disc, but there are some wire-shaped holding hairs on the prosternum and on the ventral face of postpetiole. Brush hairs are found exclusively in fringes on the posterolateral corners of the head and on the lateral margins of the pronotum.

### Foraging

In daylight we recently collected stray workers of *S. vizottoi* foraging alone under logs deposited in an urban area in Mirassol, state of São Paulo, Brazil. They seemed to