

**A NEW LASIUS (ACANTHOMYOPS) WITH A KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN FEMALES**

(HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE)

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The subgenus *Acanthomyops*<sup>1</sup> of *Lasius* comprises an exclusively North American group of species with three-segmented maxillary palpi and entirely hypogaecic habits. Possibly all are temporary social parasites of *Lasius s. str.* as in several members of the subgenus *Chthonolasius*. Where these ants are numerous they may be deemed of some economic importance due to their habit of pasturing plant lice on the roots of plants.

The workers of all species have a very similar pale yellow color and differ specifically only in minor details of structure, size, pilosity, and pubescence. Some of the species tend to have a reddish head but this is variable and is often lost in preserved specimens. Thus, it is very difficult to construct a usable key to the workers. The males also are very similar and their genitalia, as far as is known, are of no value in species determination. The females, however, are often very strikingly modified and specialized, and may be placed readily in a key. The specializations may be along several different lines—legs greatly flattened, head elongated and otherwise distorted, scapes and funiculi incrassated and/or shortened, hairs bunched into beard-like tufts or becoming barbellate or even distinctly plumose, body surface becoming more or less glabrous, etc. Of the species, only the female of *pubescens* Buren still retains a rather primitive, unspecialized appearance, reminding one, except for the three-jointed maxillary palpi, of a miniature female of *L. (Chthonolasius) umbratus aphidicolus* (Walsh).

The species with known females (only *parvulus* M. R. Smith does not have a known female) with synonymy in brief, may be listed as follows:

*L. (A.) interjectus* Mayr

*L. interjectus* Mayr, 1866. Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien. 16:888, pl. 20, fig. 3 (♀).—Mayr, *Ibidem*, 36:430 (♂ ♀ ♂).

*L. (A.) interjectus* Wheeler, 1917. Proc. Amer. Acad. Art. Sci. 52:531.

*Formica flava* Leidy, 1877, *nec* Fabricius. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., p. 145.

*L. (A.) arizonicus* Wheeler

*L. (A.) interjectus arizonica* Wheeler, 1917. Proc. Amer. Acad. Art. Sci. 52:532 (♀).

<sup>1</sup>A revised status for *Acanthomyops*, being made by Dr. Wm. S. Creighton, is not available at this writing.