

The nests contained no seeds and there was no circling or scattering of chaff around the entrance. From this evidence, one may conclude that *lariversi* is probably not a seed-feeding species, at least in the localities at which the nests were found. Bits of dead, dried ants of other species were in several nest chambers.

Living workers of *lariversi* are soft-bodied<sup>2</sup> and easily damaged by other than careful handling. They can be recognized readily in the field by the light tan head and thorax and darker gaster and by their slow gait which reminds one of that of *Myrmica*. They are inoffensive ants and apparently make no defense of their colonies.

There follows a description of a nest queen.

*Veromessor lariversi* M. R. Smith

Female (nest queen, Cole Coll. Nev- 352)

Length, 9.4 mm.

Head, similar to that of worker, but tip of scape just reaching posterior corner of head, hairs on scape less erect, rugae especially on frons and vertex coarser, posterior border with prominent foveae, and frontal triangle and median lobe of clypeus less shining.

Thorax with the entire dorsum strongly shining, smooth, and finely shagreened; sides longitudinally rugose, except for mesothoracic sternites which are largely smooth and shining; basal face of epinotum with a few transverse rugulae which are not prominent; declivity of epinotum smooth and shining. Dorsum with numerous, long, sharp-pointed hairs of uneven length; hairs on sides very few except for the anterior border of sides of pronotum where they are more numerous; hairs on legs abundant and sub-erect except on the flexor surface of femora where they are erect and longer. Epinotal spines robust, broad at base, blunt at tip. Petiolar node rather low, its superior border rounded, its apex and posterior face with very long, coarse, backwardly directed hairs. Postpetiole more than half again as broad as petiole and irregularly covered with long hairs of uneven length, those along the posterior margin being longer, broadly curved, and backwardly directed. Petiole faintly shining and shagreened, the apex and posterior face of node coarsely granulate and rough, the sides of the posterior surface of node with a few vertical rugules. Postpetiole shagreened, smooth, and faintly shining.

Gaster subopaque; with abundant, evenly spaced, rather coarse, blunt hairs of medium length on most of the first segment, longer and sharper along posterior margin of first segment and on all of remaining segments.

Color of head a dark ferrugineous, the frons, vertex, and clypeal carinae darker, the antennal funiculi, clypeus, mandibles (except teeth), and entire venter of head lighter; mandibular teeth a very dark, reddish brown; thorax, petiole, and postpetiole a dark reddish brown, the scutum infuscated anterioventrally and dorsolaterally; legs a light tan; gaster a dark tan except for the basal third of the first segment which is much lighter.

Differs from the female of *V. pergandei* (Mayr) in the lighter color, the shorter antennal scapes, the untoothed median lobe of the clypeus, the lack of prominent anterioventral tooth on the peduncle of the petiole, and the subopaque (instead of shining) gaster.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Smith, M. R. 1951. Two new ants from western Nevada (Hymenoptera, Formicidae). *Great Basin Naturalist*, xi:91-96.

<sup>2</sup>This is especially true of the gaster.