

100/ head length) 98; scape length 1.43 mm; scape index (scape length  $\times$  100/head width) 95; ocular index (eye length  $\times$  100/head length) 31; thoracic length 2.31 mm; petiole length 0.75 mm; petiolar node length 0.24 mm; petiolar node width 0.29 mm; postpetiole length 0.56 mm; postpetiolar node length 0.43 mm; postpetiolar node width 0.46 mm; gaster length 1.70 mm.

Head length and width subequal, a little narrower in front of than behind the eyes, posterior border weakly and broadly concave, posterior corners well defined. Antennal scape extending distinctly beyond occipital border, its base flattened, dilated laterally, and broader than its apex. Eye large, strongly convex, without a sharp anteroventral angle, placed at approximately its greatest diameter from base of mandible. Clypeal border without a median tooth.

wavy as they diverge toward (but do not enter) the posterior corners; rugae bordering antennal fossae longitudinal; interrugal spaces and the mid-vertex beyond the divergent median rugae densely and finely punctate and rather shining; posterior corners of head smooth, strongly shining, faintly shagreened; clypeus smooth and highly polished, faintly shagreened, without rugae. Promesonotum coarsely rugo-reticulate, pronotal rugae transverse, those elsewhere longitudinal; rugae on epinotum and in mesoepinotal impression extremely coarse, wavy, and widely spaced; epinotal spines and infraspinal facet smooth, faintly shagreened, strongly shining. Petiole and postpetiole densely and finely punctate and subopaque. Gaster strongly shining, very obscurely shagreened. Size and pattern of hairs not definitive.

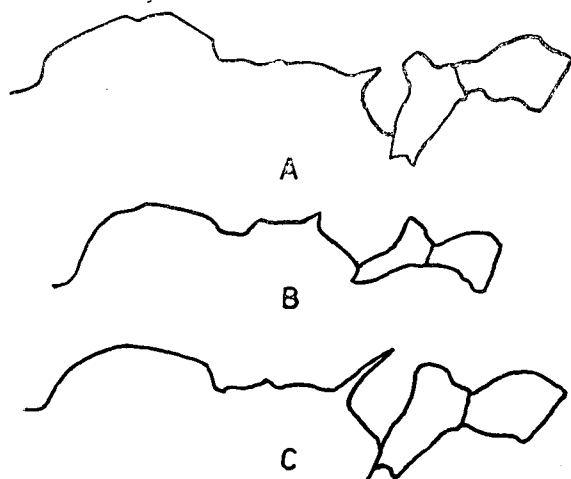


FIG. 1.—Thoracic, petiolar, and postpetiolar contours of worker; A, *Veromessor smithi*, n. sp.; B, *V. lariversi* M. R. Smith; C, *V. lobognathus* (Andrews).

Thorax, in profile, as shown in figure 1A. Promesonotum strongly convex, promesonotal impression distinct, posterior declivity of mesonotum steep and making a strongly rounded angle with the well defined mesoepinotal impression. Anterior margin of epinotum elevated as a transverse carina which appears, in profile, as a short tooth; base of epinotum faintly convex and meeting the steep posterior declivity at a pronounced angle; epinotal spines moderately long, triangular and sharp, the interspinous distance basally subequal to the spine length. Petiolar node thick, its height a little less than its greatest breadth, its declivities steep, anterior declivity meeting the peduncle at a broadly rounded concavity, posterior declivity meeting posterior surface of node at a sharp angle, apex broadly and rather evenly convex, not acute; peduncle with a well-defined ventral lamella and a weakly developed tooth. Anterior declivity of postpetiolar node long and slightly convex, posterior declivity very short.

Frontal region of head with rather strong, moderately coarse, longitudinal rugae which become

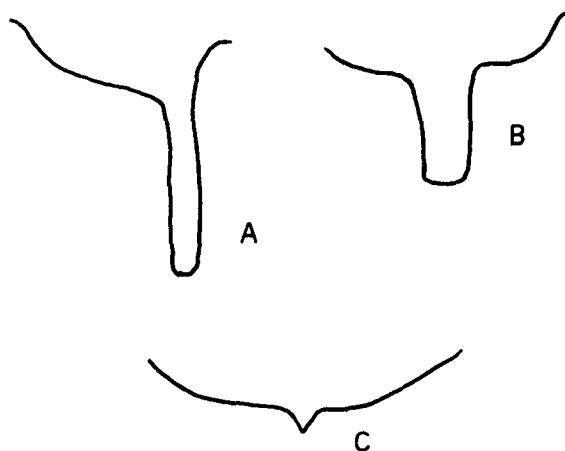


FIG. 2.—Shape of midventral protuberance between middle and hind coxae of male: A, *Veromessor smithi*, n. sp.; B, *V. lariversi* M. R. Smith; C, *V. lobognathus* (Andrews).

Head, thorax, petiole, and postpetiole a rather uniform medium reddish brown; appendages slightly lighter.

*Paratype*.—Male.

Readily distinguished from the known males of other species of *Veromessor* by the following combination of characters:

Epinotum unarmed; midventral process between middle and hind coxae well developed, slender, and rather long (fig. 2A); rugae on occipital corners of head sparse and fine; pronotum shagreened; petiolar and postpetiolar contour as shown in figure 3A; apex of petiolar node broadly convex; ventral lamella of petiolar peduncle well developed and with a prominent tooth; body length 5.44 mm; thorax, petiole, and postpetiole light yellowish brown, head and gaster darker.

*Paratype*.—Alate female.

Differing from known females of other species of *Veromessor* by the following combination of characters:

Eye large (ocular index 33), its length distinctly