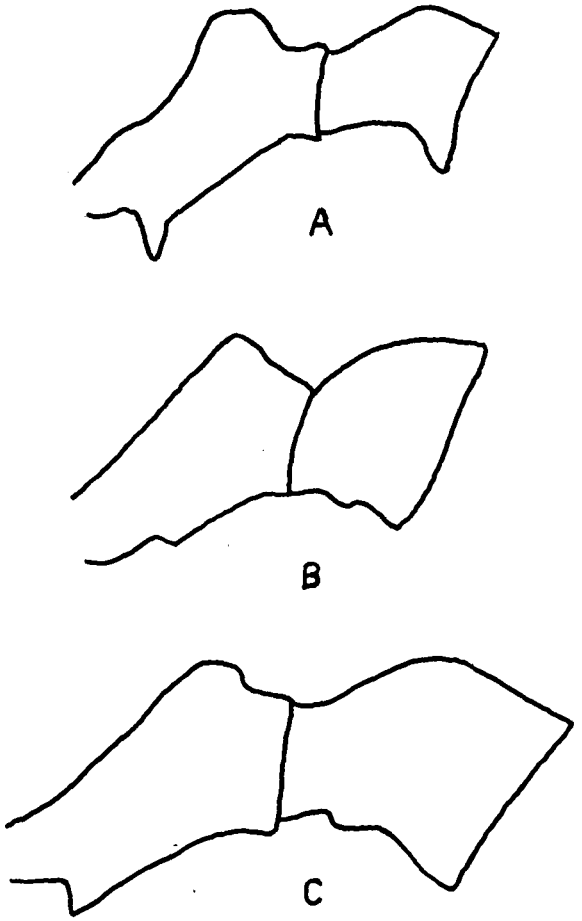

FIG. 3.—Petiolar and postpetiolar contours of male: A, *Veromessor smithi*, n. sp.; B, *V. lariversi* M. R. Smith; C, *V. lobognathus* (Andrews).

greater than distance from posterior margin of eye to occipital margin of head; cephalic index 102; scape index 87; base of antennal scape flattened, dilated laterally, broader than apex; sculpture of occipital corners distinct, consisting of rugulae and fine punctures; rugae around antennal fossae not concentric; apex of petiolar node broadly convex; ventral lamella of petiolar peduncle strong, its anterior margin meeting the peduncle at nearly a right angle; body subopaque and of a rather uniform medium reddish brown, its length 7.29 mm.

Type locality.—Nevada test site (Area 12 desert), Mercury, Nye Co. Nevada, July 15, 1962. Described from the holotype and numerous paratypic workers, males, and alate females, all bearing Cole Coll. No. Nev- 721; also from numerous paratypic workers, males, and females, from the same locality, bearing Cole Coll. Nos. Nev- 722 to 757, inclusive. Nest Nev- 721 was in open sandy desert of mixed vegetation, at an elevation of 3,300 ft., and was surmounted by a circular sand crater about 5 in. in diameter.

Variation in paratype series.—There are slight differences in the size of workers (length 6.03-7.21 mm), males (length 5.22-5.55 mm), and females (length 7.00-7.69 mm) and in the degree of development of the epinotal spines, the peduncular lamella and spine, and the midventral process between the middle and hind coxae (males).

Affinities.—The new species is closely related to both *V. lobognathus* (Andrews) and *lariversi* M. R. Smith and more remotely to *pergandei* Emery. At the test site, it is sympatric with and even occupies the same stations as *lariversi*. Indeed, some of the nests that I observed were no more than 5 feet apart. The affinities are apparent in the descriptions and the key which appear later in this paper.

Disposition of type material.—Long series of paratypic workers, males, and females will be deposited in the U. S. National Museum, where Dr. M. R. Smith, after whom the new species is affectionately named, has spent so many dedicated years in a meticulous study of ants; in the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard); in the American Museum of Natural History; and in the collections of Dr. W. S. Creighton, Dr. R. E. Gregg, and Drs. G. C. and J. Wheeler. The holotype and the remaining paratypes will be consigned to my collection.

Descriptions of the sexual castes of two species of *Veromessor,* which also occur at the site, have not been published previously, with the exception of the queen of *lariversi* (Cole 1955); they are presented herewith.

Veromessor lariversi M. R. Smith

Male (Cole Coll. No. Nev-784).

Occipital corners of head with irregular striae as well as dense, fine punctures; epinotum armed with prominent angles; midventral process between middle and hind coxae prominent and robust (fig. 2B); apex of petiolar node subacute (fig. 3B); ventral lamella of petiolar peduncle very weak, the tooth absent; body rather uniformly black, its length 5.61 mm.

Female, alate (Cole Coll. No. Nev-784).

Eye large (ocular index 36), its length distinctly greater than distance from posterior margin of eye to occipital margin; cephalic index 99; scape index 86; base of antennal scape narrower than apex, not flattened; sculpture of occipital corners of head obscure, consisting largely of fine shagreening; rugae around antennal fossae concentric; scutum smooth and shining; apex of petiolar node very acute; ventral lamella of petiolar peduncle weak, the tooth absent. Body strongly shining, its color a deep and rather uniformly infuscated brown; length 6.58 - 6.72 mm.

Veromessor lobognathus (Andrews)

Male (Cole Coll. No. Nev-760).

Epinotum unarmed; contour of petiole and postpetiole as shown in figure 3C; apex of petiolar node broadly convex; mid-ventral process between middle and hind coxae weakly developed, a short acute