

to gaster hair length relative to head width across the eyes for *L. mixtus*, *L. umbratus* and *L. affinis*. Fig. 3 shows this ratio expressed in histograms. These diagrams show a clear division into three groups with a relatively small area of overlap between *L. umbratus* and the others and none between *L. mixtus* and *L. affinis*. For the purposes of this study I have taken *L. mixtus* as workers and queens with a seta count in Wilson's method and terminology of no more than two (with an average of much less than 1) while *L. umbratus* is taken as having more than 5. Fig. 2 shows a compound character index diagram for *L. umbratus/mixtus* with the criteria tibial hairs, genal hairs, funiculus segment proportions and gaster hair length as shown in the key to the diagram. While the method of scoring separates the species in

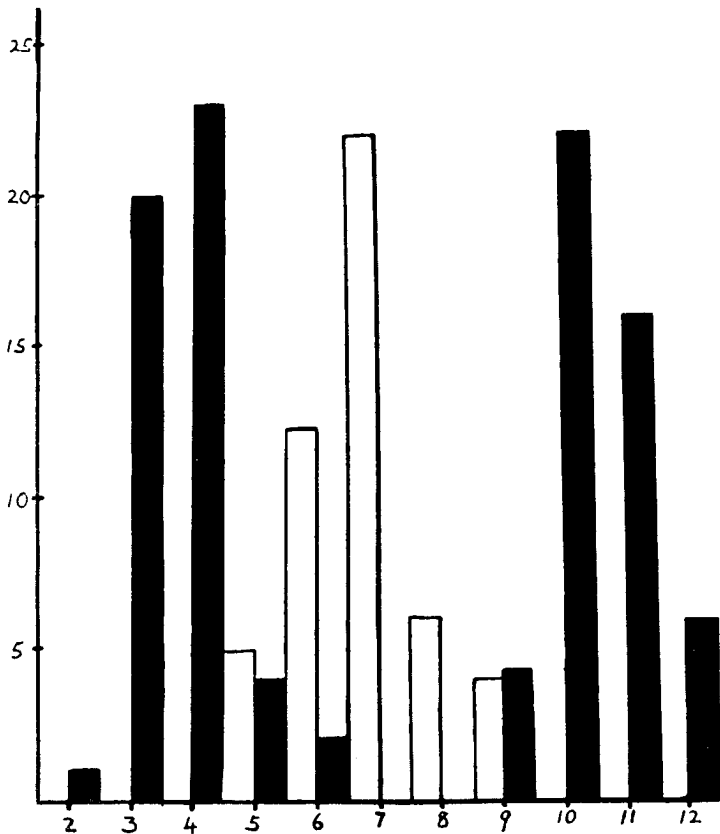


Fig. 3.—Ratio worker gaster hair length: head width $\times 100$ (basal axis).
 Black column to left—*Lasius mixtus* Nyl. (means of 50 nest series).
 Black column to right—*Lasius affinis* Sch. (25 individuals $\times 2$).
 White column—*Lasius umbratus* Nyl. (means of 50 nest series).