

Lasius niger (Linnaeus, 1758) (Fig. 3)

Diagnosis. Worker. Greyish to brownish black. Head relatively large, eye length more than $\times 0.20$ head width. Abundant standing hairs on scapes and tibiae.

Female. Much larger than worker. Larger than most other *Lasius* females with massive alitrunk which is wider than head (HW 1.52–1.82 mm). Abundant standing hairs on scapes and tibiae. Greyish black, wings clear.

Male. Body and appendages sparsely covered with standing hairs. Head narrower than alitrunk. Mandibles edentate. Colour brownish to greyish black, wings clear.

Description based on Himalayan material. Worker. Size varies between 3.5 and 6.0 mm, variability greater than in European populations (3.5–5.0 mm). Colour usually dark brown but about 20% tending to have a reddish alitrunk approaching the *L. emarginatus* (Olivier) condition. Some Asiatic populations from China and Afghanistan tend to have a yellowish body colour. EL 0.25–0.31 mm, EW 0.18–0.23 mm, HL 0.94–1.43 mm, HW 0.81–1.40 mm, SL 0.88–1.35 mm, CI 86.1–98.2, SI 90.74–109.68, SSC 12–32, FTSC 8–26.

Female. The Himalayan females available for comparison with European material are

characterized by their larger size and generally reduced pilosity. EL 0.45–0.47 mm, EW 0.34 mm, HL 1.79–1.87 mm, HW 2.02–2.11 mm, SL 6.53 mm, CI 112.5–115.94, SI 72.84–73.85, SSC 2–13, FTSC 11–26.

Himalayan distribution. PAKISTAN: Naran (Kagan Valley), 2600 m, 25.v.1974 (NHMB); Nathagali (Wilson, 1955). NEPAL: Arun River Valley, Duna, 2400 m, 1.vi.1973 (*Lay*) (CC); Bakkri Kharka (Collingwood, 1971). INDIA: Darjeeling-Chim Khona (Ghoom), 2000–3000 m. Rimbrick 2350 m, Rimbrick, Raman, 1950–2450 m; Raman, 2450 m; Bharapatea-Lebong, 1800 m; Meghalaya, Upper Shillong, 1900 m; Marsphlang, 1850 m. (NHMB). KASHMIR: Pahalgam, 2200–3100 m. (NHMB) BHUTAN: Tangu, 22 km N Thimpu, 2600–2800 m; Gogona, 3100 m; Between Puntsholing and Thimpu, 1780 m; Gidappu, 2300 m; Nobding, 41 km W Wangdi Phodrang, 2800 m; Ghangra, 18 km S Tongsa, 1400–1600 m, 20 km S. Thimpu, 2300 m. (NHMB). TIBET: Recorded from several localities by Eidmann (1941).

General distribution. An abundant Holarctic species, Western United States to Japan.

Discussion. Himalayan populations are striking for their large size variability; the larger workers are nearly twice as big as the smaller ones. The number of standing hairs on

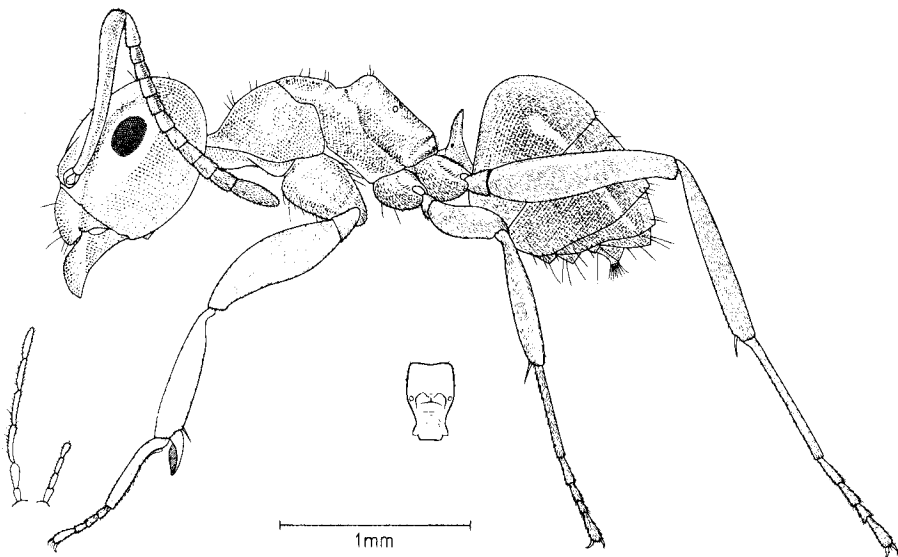


FIG. 11. *Lasius brunneus*, worker profile.