

FIG. 12. *Lasius alienoflavus*, worker profile.

the scape also varies with a suggestion of a weak negative allometry with size; however, differences in seta counts among different geographic populations do not fall into a single trend. Yamauchi & Hayashida (1970) described a new species, *L.sakagamii*, from Japan. This species is characterized by a reddish alitrunk and larger SSC values compared with typical *L.niger*. Some of the Himalayan samples would fall within the described range of characteristics of *sakagamii* and fit equally well samples seen from Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan and two syntype workers from Taiwan labelled *niger coloratus* Santschi (NHMB No.

XXI V. e. 1693). However, the subspecies *coloratus* was synonymized by Wilson (1955) and, although there are some strikingly bicoloured or hairy specimens among the Himalayan material, one can only agree tentatively with Wilson's conclusion. Very hairy specimens (equivalent to *coloratus-sakagamii*) predominate in the West Himalayas (e.g. Kagan Valley, Pakistan) while the Eastern Himalayan samples are much more of the European type with respect to pilosity. Specimens with more or less reddish alitrunks, on the contrary, are found irregularly throughout the Himalayan range.

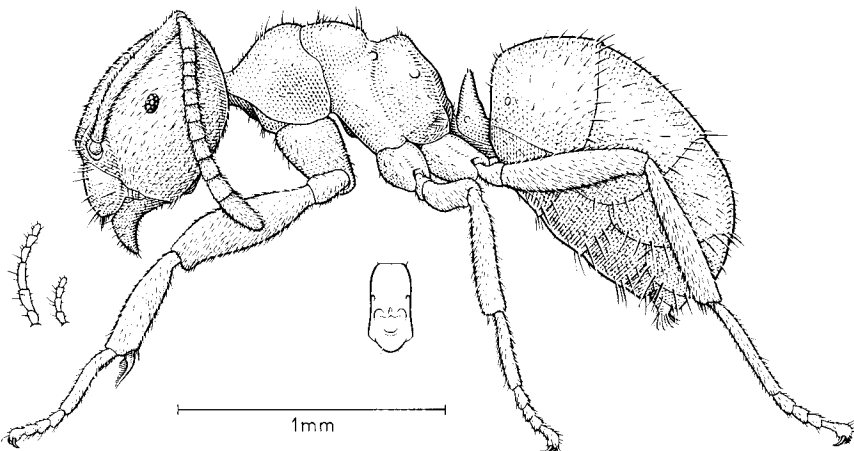


FIG. 13. *Lasius talpa*, worker profile.