

make the matter certain, he sent specimens to Kutter in Switzerland for comparison with Santschi's type. Smith has very generously turned over to me the data Kutter transmitted to him. Kutter drew up a detailed list of minor differences that separate Santschi's type from Byars' specimens. These dealt with color, gastric sculpture, the thickness of the femora and the shape of the head, funicular joints, epinotal spines, and petiole. According to Kutter the two cannot be confused. But it should be remembered that Kutter had only three workers from Smith and the type series of *silvestrii*, which was never extensive, is now apparently limited to the single type. On the basis of the above comparison Kutter could not realize that most of the variations he listed are normally present in a nest series of *silvestrii*. This statement is based on a study of six nests which the writer took at three stations in southern Arizona during 1951 and 1952. The total worker population of these six nests was in excess of 300 specimens. While this number is not unusually large, it is large enough to permit an evaluation of variation within the species. Since the same sort of variation occurred in each of the six colonies, there is no reason to attribute separatory significance to these slight differences.

Leptothorax silvestrii is an arboreal species and, to judge from the limited data available, prefers to nest in evergreen oaks, particularly *Q. emoryi*. Like most arboreal ants that live in Arizona, it nests in good-sized limbs rather than twigs. The colonies are comparatively small. They usually consist of from 50 to 70 workers and a single female. The writer believes that additional collecting in the evergreen oak areas in the mountains of southern Arizona will show that *silvestrii* occurs in all of the main ranges. In this connection it seems well to note that the type locality is probably not Tucson, but one of the near-by canyons in the Santa Catalina Mountains. No colony of *silvestrii* taken to date (including Byars' nest from Ruby) has come from an elevation lower than 3500 feet. Nor does the insect occur on the open desert. It is unlikely therefore that it would have been taken in Tucson, which is at only 2500 feet and is well removed from any areas of evergreen oaks.

Leptothorax (Leptothorax)¹ silvestrii ^{rec} Santschi

WORKER (FIGS. 1, 5): Length of head (mandibles excluded), 0.92-0.75 mm.; thorax, 1.4-1.1 mm.; over-all length, 4.0-3.25 mm.

¹ M. R. Smith has recently shown that, because of a neglected type designation, the subgeneric name *Leptothorax* must be applied to the subgenus previously called *Mychothorax*. Smith proposes to replace *Leptothorax* with *Myrafant*. Gregg and the writer have appealed this case to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. While it is pending, to continue to use the older subgeneric names seems preferable.

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Kutter
is
right!