

so feebly rugose as to be almost smooth and is marked only by scattered patches of punctures. In this same species the dorsum of the first gastric segment was said to be smooth and shining and without basal punctures. In *townsendi*, on the other hand, both the postpetiole and the dorsum of the first gastric segment were described as completely covered with fine, dense punctures and opaque. Wheeler also claimed that in general *townsendi* is more opaque than *imberbicus*. Olsen accepted *townsendi* as a separate species in 1934 (2) but the writer in 1950 (3) treated it as a subspecies of *imberbicus*. At that time there was little material of *townsendi* available but, since it was still the only member of the subgenus known from Mexico, it could be regarded as a southern race of *imberbicus*. It is now clear that such a treatment is erroneous. As material began to accumulate it became apparent that *imberbicus* occurs much further south in Mexico than does *townsendi* and that the latter form occurs at random, principally in the northwestern portion of the range of *imberbicus*. The writer has taken colonies which agree well with the type of *townsendi* in northern Sonora and at three stations in southern Arizona. In these specimens both the postpetiole and the basal two-thirds of the dorsum of the first gastric segment are densely and evenly covered with small, close-set punctures which render the surface opaque or nearly so. These specimens can, without any difficulty, be assigned to *townsendi*, but this is not true of others which are intermediate in character. One nest from northwestern Chihuahua has the gastric punctuation limited to the anterior third of the segment. Another large colony from southeastern Arizona shows some individuals without gastric sculpture and others with only a small area of sculpture immediately adjacent to the postpetiole. In both these colonies the sculpture of the postpetiole is like that of *townsendi*. After it was appreciated that the supposedly definitive features of *townsendi* vary, a reexamination was made of all specimens previously assigned to *imberbicus*. This established the