

A critical examination of the holotype and point by point comparison with members of each group lead to the conclusion that *Secostruma* should be included with the tetramoriines. The recovery of more material, whose gasters can be dissected to examine the sting, will quickly confirm or refute this statement.

*Secostruma* is well adapted for a subterranean and apparently carnivorous lifeway. It has vestigial eyes, large powerful mandibles, and a striking modification of the gaster which, it is postulated, is specialized to bring the sting into play in confined spaces or tunnels in the earth. The genus and its only known species *S. lethifera*, are described below. This is followed by a discussion of the genus, its specializations and possible lifeway, and an investigation of the affinities of the genus which led to its inclusion in the *Tetramorium*-group.

### *Secostruma* gen.n.

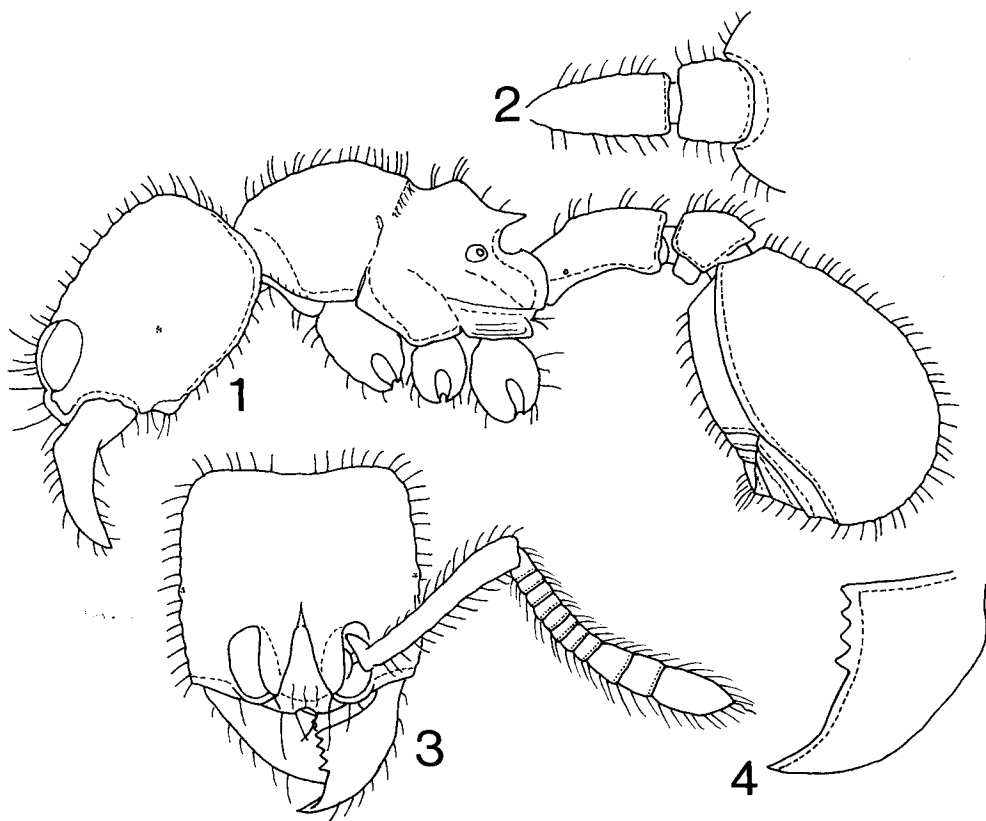
**DIAGNOSIS OF WORKER.** Subterranean ants belonging to the subfamily Myrmicinae, with the following combination of characters.

1. Palp formula 4,3 (*in situ* count); right maxillary palp broken.

2. Masticatory margin of mandible with a stout curved acute apical tooth, subtended by a long edentate section of the margin. Basad of the edentate section the margin with a row of 4 small teeth. Edentate section of margin longer than tooth-bearing section (Fig. 4).

3. Median clypeal seta absent. Median indentation of anterior clypeal margin with a seta on each side, these setae directed anteromedially and their apices crossing over.

4. Lateral portions of clypeus raised into sharp



FIGS. 1-4. *Secostruma lethifera*, holotype worker: 1, body in profile, antennae and legs omitted; 2, petiole and postpetiole in dorsal view; 3, head in full-face view; 4, left mandible to show dentition, fringing pilosity omitted.