

Alitrunk compact; pronotum depressed and nearly plane above, bounded by a distinct anterior and less distinct lateral margins, meeting at blunt humeral angles. In profile, the dorsal outline is convex from pronotum to propodeum, with a depression (or flat area) in the region of the mesonotum. Promesonotal suture obsolete; metanotal groove weak to absent. Propodeal teeth laterally compressed, acute, their apices directed slightly dorsad, their infradental lamellae narrow and concave. Petiole pedunculate, its rounded node with a feebly developed posterodorsal collar of spongiform lamella; no ventral appendages. Postpetiole subreniform, much broader than petiole, with weak lateral and ventral spongiform appendages. Gaster with a narrow basal spongiform margin and a band of short basal costulae; rest of surface smooth and shining.

Head, alitrunk, legs, and both nodes finely and evenly reticulate-punctulate and opaque, except for a smooth, shining patch on the mesokatepisternum.

Mandibles with oblique pointed and linear-spatulate hairs directed mesad from dorsal surfaces, especially near insertions. Clypeal and anterior scape margins each with a series of bordering spatulate hairs; one erect truncate, clavate or remiform erect hair on the posterior edge of each occipital lobe, one on each lateral occipital border (Figs. 1 and 4), one on each humerus, and one on each side of the mesonotum (these hairs are often small and fragile, and are often missing in part); two on the petiolar node, four on the postpetiole, and 16-20 on the gastric dorsum. Ground pilosity moderately developed to obsolete except in *N. crassicornis*, consisting of sparse, fine, reclinate or subreclinate hairs on the head, legs and antennae, often invisible on head, shorter on clypeus.

Color varying from ferruginous yellow to dark brown. The gaster is often darker than the rest of the body.

Female like worker, but with larger eyes and fully developed flight apparatus, and otherwise differing from the workers as *Strumigenys* workers differ from their females. Forewing as in Wheeler's figure 11D in his book, "Ants," p. 25, except that in *Neostruma* the apical section of R (labeled "f" by Wheeler) is lacking.

Males known only for *N. mustelina*; these are basically like males of the smaller species of *Strumigenys*.