

(between the ranges of *mustelina* and *brevicornis*) or from western Panama (between *brevicornis* and *zeteki* with *metopia*). A second difficulty is that the available material of *brevicornis*, and especially of *mustelina*, each representing a wide and varied range in Central America and Mexico respectively, shows no obvious infraspecific clinal trends corresponding to that seen among the several species. Instead, allowing for individual or local nest-series variation in size, color and other minor characters, the constancy of the "diagnostic" characters holds very well, allowing a complete separation of four morphological species. In view of all of the facts outlined, and the various interpretations possible, I am treating *mustelina*, *brevicornis*, *zeteki* and *metopia* provisionally as separate species without strong prejudice as to their eventual status.

The last species to be discussed is the remarkable *N. myllorhapha*, known only from the single type worker from Costa Rica. As Figure 4 shows, this species is quite distinct from all its congeners. It represents an apparent reversal of the trend in *Neostruma* toward shortening of the mandibles. That this is a true reversal is attested by the great elongation of the labral lobes. The *Neostruma* ancestor of *N. myllorhapha* obviously had the shortened mandibles, reduced trigger hairs, and elongate labral lobes characteristic of all the existing species of the genus. When the mandibles started to elongate in the line leading to *myllorhapha*, the trigger hairs did not elongate again, but instead the labral lobes bearing them were drawn out to an extreme length, in this way compensating for the unrecovered loss of length of the hairs needed to activate the snap-closure of such long mandibles.

#### NEOSTRUMA MUSTELINA (Weber)

*Strumigenys mustelina* Weber, 1934, Revista de Ent., 4:34, fig. 11, female.

Type locality: Jicoltepec, Veracruz. Syntypes in MCZ.

Worker (8 specimens measured from 3 nest series). TL 1.6-1.8, HL 0.41-0.46, ML 0.15-0.16, WL 0.43-0.46 mm.; CI 79-81, MI 35-39, ICD 48-52. Habitus intermediate between Figure 1 and Figure 2. The dimensions and proportions overlap those of *N. brevicornis*, but the tendency in *N. mustelina* to smaller size, relatively broader and deeper head, shorter mandibles, and