

of petiole and gaster, and dorsal surface of first gastric tergum near its posterior margin. Longer fine hairs (0.4-0.6 mm long) on the 4 segments of gastric apex, and some longer oblique hairs ranged along the undersides of the inner mandibular borders. *O. hastatus* has abundant fine erect pilosity over most of the body.

Pubescence distinct only on scapes, tibiae and tarsi, where it is short, fine, and appressed to obliquely erect. Dilute appressed pubescence on mandibular shafts. On trunk, petiole, and especially on the smooth and shining gastric dorsum, pubescence is extremely fine and dilute, so that the gaster, at least, seems free of it except at high magnifications in certain lights, when widely separated, very fine, appressed hairs are sometimes visible.

(7) Mesepisternal margin distinct its whole length above (often obliterated in front of metathoracic spiracle in *hastatus*); metasternal surface vertically striate over about anterior quarter, otherwise smooth, with satiny blue lustre.

(8) Head, mandibles, trunk, petiole, and tibiae dark reddish brown; gaster, mandibular apices and tarsi piceous; coxae and femora dull yellow, the femora infuscated apicad. The smooth parts of the body, especially sides of head, mesepisterna, and node, with bluish iridescence.

Additional metric data: petiole L 1.21, petiole height above spiracle 1.30, without ventral process 1.70, including ventral process 2.01, left hind femur L 4.62, left hind tibia L (without basal condyle) 3.70 mm.

Holotype [MCZ] a unique taken in wet forest in a ravine leading up into the first (westernmost) foothills of the Andes just east of the highway, about 3 km SW of Bucay, Prov. Guayas, Ecuador, by W. L. Brown, July 1973. The worker was found walking slowly on the ground in shade near midday; seen alive, it was at first thought to be a large specimen of *O. chelifera*.

Paratype workers: Two specimens were received belatedly, when this manuscript was nearly finished. They were both collected in 1975 in Prov. Pichincha, Ecuador, by Stewart and Jarmila Peck. The first worker, slightly larger than the holotype, comes from 3 km east of Tandapi, 1300 m, in wet ravine (B-303). The second is a partial specimen, consisting only of head and pronotum with appendages, from Tinalandia, 16 km southeast of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, 680 m, in litter berlesate. This last specimen is a little smaller than the holotype, and has the palpi extended and segments countable at 4.4. The measurements of these samples are the extreme values entered in Table I.

Queen and male unknown.

This species is the largest *Odontomachus* in the New World, equalling and slightly exceeding the largest workers of *O. chelifera* available for study. The records are all from Ecuador west of the Andes. It will be interesting to see how far north and south the range of this species extends.

[25] Wilson (1959) reduced the *tyrannicus* group by synonymy from 8 species, subspecies and varieties to just 3 species: *tyrannicus*, *testaceus* and *nigriceps*. The small additional amount of material made available since 1959 does nothing to bring